

# 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Gingerbread Contest

Hosted by Main Street Church

## Official Rules and Regulations

- Entry Forms:** There is no fee to enter. The deadline for fully-completed entry forms is Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026. These can be either filled out [online](#), emailed to [gingerbread@churchonmain.com](mailto:gingerbread@churchonmain.com) or snail-mailed to:  
Gingerbread Contest Entry – 116 N. Main Street – St. Charles, MO 63301  
Entries cannot be accepted if an entry form was not submitted by the date above.
- Entry Drop Off:** Completed entries **must** be brought to the Main Street Church facility located at the address above on Sunday, 11/22/26, between the hours of 4pm and 6pm. If an alternative drop off time is needed, it is the participant's responsibility to contact [gingerbread@churchonmain.com](mailto:gingerbread@churchonmain.com) by 11/18/26 to schedule a different time. All entries are to remain on display at the Main Street Church facility until 12/20/26. ***At drop off, all entries must be accompanied by a sheet of paper with the participants name, e-mail, phone number, and category as it was entered on the original entry form.***
- Categories:** All entries must be entered into one of the 4 following categories:  
Adult (18 +)    Youth (11 – 17)    Child (1 – 10)    Business / Professional  
***Entries must be constructed primarily by a person of the age in the category which they are entered.*** The Business and Professional category will include all businesses entered as such. If you don't wish to compete against bakeries, etc., please enter in the appropriate age category under your name and not the business name. If you **are** a professional, please enter as such.
- Judging:** All entries not turned in by Sunday, 11/22/26 may not be included in the judging for cash prizes. Entries will be judged on a 1-10 scale in each of the following categories:
  - Originality / Imagination
  - Creative use of materials
  - Design / Difficulty
  - Level of Detail
  - Overall Appearance
  - Attention to Theme
- Theme:** The theme for the 2026 contest is: **“250 Years of Freedom, Faith, & Frosting”**
- Entry Display:** All entries will be on display Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for the duration of the Christmas Traditions season through Sunday, 12/20/26.
- Building Specifications:**
  - Use of Gingerbread:** Structures must include gingerbread, but do not have to be made primarily of gingerbread. They may be decorated and accented with other materials.
  - Non-Visible Supports:** Non-edible materials may be used as support structures in your construction, but should not be visible.

- c. Everything Visible: Every visible piece of your entry must be made of edible material. The only exception to this is the sides of your base that the entry is built, which may be painted. The use of candy is highly suggested, but not mandatory.
  - d. **NOTE: The use of inedible items that are visible such as pre-fabricated trees, accents, etc. will result in the immediate deduction of 15% of your total score. The use of candy wrappers is excluded from this rule.**
  - e. Entry Size: All entries are to be constructed on a base made of plywood or similar material to provide a sturdy, non-flexible platform. Bases can be no larger than 20" by 20", and cannot exceed 24" high. **Any entry larger than this will receive a 15% deduction from their total score.** Orientation of the base should be such that a flat side faces front if the base is square or rectangular.
  - f. Please do not include internal lighting systems that require an electrical cord in the construction. Although this creates a great effect, we cannot guarantee enough electrical outlets for all entries and the heat generated could pose a problem with displaying your entry for the duration of the Christmas Traditions festival. Lights powered with batteries may be included if you choose. Please note, Gingerbread Village Hosts cannot be responsible for turning them off and on.
8. **Prizes**: First (\$100), Second (\$75), Third (\$50) and Honorable Mention (\$25) will be awarded for each category. In addition, there will be three special recognition awards. **Winners** will be listed on Facebook, and on the Gingerbread Village website: [www.churchonmain.com/gingerbread](http://www.churchonmain.com/gingerbread)
9. **Entry Pickup**: All entries must be picked up on Sunday, 12/20/26 between the hours of 5pm and 7pm. If you are unable to pick up your entry at this time, **please contact us prior to** the 12/20 date at [gingerbread@churchonmain.com](mailto:gingerbread@churchonmain.com). **Entries not picked up** will be donated or **discarded**.
10. ***Christmas Traditions and Main Street Church reserve the right to photograph entries for promotional purposes without compensation to the entrant.***