Gingerbread Contest Rules & Guidelines ~ 2026

Theme: “Let’s Celebrate! Winter Wonders & Holiday Traditions”
Entries due to Chaffee: December 2nd & 3rd

The Chaffee Art Center, Your Center for Creativity, is excited to announce a CALL FOR BAKERS for the 2026 Gingerbread Contest!

Interested bakers, schools, organizations, businesses, families, individuals, and young people are invited to submit their imaginative gingerbread creations. Entries should pre-register. Forms can be found on our website www.chaffeeartcenter.org.

We hope bakers will have fun and enjoy creating gingerbread with our contest theme “Let’s Celebrate! Winter Wonders & Holiday Traditions.”

BIG NEWS! This year, we will still have the same contest rules and guidelines for our traditional Annual Gingerbread Contest as in the past with more prize awards including People’s Choice!

BRAND NEW! Gingerbread Kit creations will be accepted to be displayed in a separate Gallery that will be dedicated to entries using the Kits. This new addition to our Annual Contest is to encourage all ages to explore this fun activity for creativity, and to be able to share their creations with others. Feel free to add on or change the traditional kit. Many prizes will be awarded including People’s Choice! See Rules on our website. Drop off deadlines are the same. Pick up is Dec 12th.

All entries must be delivered to the Chaffee Art Center on either Wednesday, Dec. 2 (3–5pm), OR Thursday, Dec. 3 (10am–12pm), or by appointment. The gingerbread creations will be on display in our historic 1890’s mansion starting at the Gingerbread Showcase Opening Reception on Dec. 5th (12–2pm).

Contact: www.chaffeeartcenter.org; 802.775.0356; info@chaffeeartcenter.org; Chaffee Art Center at 16 South Main Street in Rutland, VT.

Happy Baking!

Rules/Guidelines:

1. TRADITIONAL ANNUAL CONTEST

- FREE Entry. Pre-Registration required.
 -Must be made from Gingerbread. NO KITS PERMITTED. Designs may be 2D or 3D.
 -Open to all ages, individuals, and groups.
 -Awards will be announced in a variety of categories including People's Choice.
 -Entries major components must be made of gingerbread. The rest of the display can be constructed and decorated with edible material.
 -Internal structural support for large gingerbread entries do not have to be edible as long as it is not visible from any angle. Only 5% of entry can be NOT edible.
 -Royal icing strongly recommended. Please remember when choosing your edible materials, that the creations will be on display at room temperature for weeks.
 -All structures should be attached to a sturdy base (plywood) enabling it to be free standing. No larger than 14"x14". NOTE: We will be picking up and moving them, sturdy and not extremely heavy is appreciated.
 -All entries must be delivered on either Wednesday, December 2nd (3pm to 5pm) or Thursday, December 3rd (10am to Noon)…Please attach a copy of the entry form to your structure.
 -Delivery location is the Chaffee Art Center at 16 South Main Street in Rutland, Vermont.
 -All traditional gingerbread creations will be on display from the Gingerbread Showcase Reception on December 5th from Noon to 2pm, until January 2nd.
 -Entries can be picked up on Saturday, January 2nd from 11am to 2pm (or by appointment). Entries not picked up by 2pm on 1/2/27 will become the property of the Chaffee Art Center.
-The Chaffee Art Center reserves the right to not display an entry considered to be inappropriate or not showing quality, and to take out a display that is showing signs of deterioration.
-The Chaffee Art Center and staff/volunteers cannot be held responsible for any damages incurred to the displays while on the Chaffee Art Center's property.

1. ENTRIES USING KITS

- FREE Entry. Pre-Registration appreciated. Open to all ages, individuals, and groups.
 -Awards will be announced in a variety of categories including People's Choice.
 -Please remember when choosing your edible materials, that the creations will be on display at room temperature for a week.
 -All structures should be attached to a sturdy base enabling it to be free standing. No larger than 14"x14". NOTE: We will be picking up and moving them, please make sturdy.
 -All entries must be delivered on either Wednesday, December 2nd (3pm to 5pm) or Thursday, December 3rd (10am to Noon)…Please attach a copy of the entry form to your structure.
 -Delivery location is the Chaffee Art Center at 16 South Main Street in Rutland, Vermont.
 -Entries MUST be picked up on Saturday, December 12th from 11am to 2pm (or by appointment). Entries not picked by this deadline will be thrown away.
-The Chaffee Art Center reserves the right to not display an entry considered to be inappropriate or not showing quality, and to take out a display that is showing signs of deterioration.
-The Chaffee Art Center and staff/volunteers cannot be held responsible for any damages incurred to the displays while on the Chaffee Art Center's property.

FREE Gingerbread Contest Entry Form 2026

Theme: “Let’s Celebrate! Winter Wonders & Holiday Traditions”
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Entrant’s name:_____
Bakery/School/Organization:_____
Street:_____
City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____
Phone:_____
Email:_____

Check one – Traditional:_____ OR Kit:_____
Entry Division for People’s Choice Awards (check one)
___Professional: Bakeries, Caterers, Professional Bakers
___Business: Employees participate together
___Family, School and Group: Families and groups participating with children
___Adult: ages 18 and up
___Teen: ages 12 to 17
___Youth: ages 11 and under

Title/name of display:_____
Description of display (use back if needed):
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Electricity needed for display: YES / NO
For Traditional Entry: Do you plan to pick up display on Jan 2: ___YES ___NO
[NOTE: We may have an auction fundraiser of theTraditional Gingerbread Entries that are not being picked up. We will know after we receive all entry forms. Proceeds go to Chaffee Art Center.]

By signing this form, I agree to abide by all rules set forth in the Rules and Guidelines, and to deliver my gingerbread creation display to the Chaffee Art Center on Wed, Dec 2nd (3pm to 5pm) or Thur, Dec 3rd (10am to Noon). Traditional entries pick up 1/2/27; Kit pick up 12/12/26.
Signature of entrant:_____
Date:_____Delivered:_____
Teen, Youth and Child Divisions: Signature of parent/guardian:_____

Contact: Sherri Birkheimer Rooker, Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main St., Rutland, VT 05701, info@chaffeeartcenter.org, 802-775-0356