

Gingerbread House Spectacular 2025

UNITED WE DO MORE!

3RD ANNUAL COMPETITION SCHEDULE

- **Friday, November 28, 2025 by 5:00 p.m.** Entry Form Due (or until available spaces are all filled).
- **Thursday, December 4, 2025 4-6 p.m.:** Gingerbread House Drop Off at 16 Bay View Hotel (competitors only)
- **Friday, December 5, 2025, noon-8 p.m.:** Gingerbread Display open to the public with People's Choice voting & silent auction open.
- **Saturday, December 6, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.:** Gingerbread Display open to the public with People's Choice voting until 3:30 p.m. all winners announced at 4 p.m. silent auction ends at 4 p.m..

RULES AND ENTRY FORMS

The following rules and procedures have been set forth and established by United Midcoast Charities herein known as the organizer of the Gingerbread House Spectacular at Christmas by the Sea 2025. Please read the rules and procedures carefully and retain for your records. Organizer reserve the right to refuse any entry deemed inappropriate. For additional questions, please email: gingerbread@unitedmidcoastcharities.org

ENTRY SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

To be eligible for the competition, a completed Competitor Entry Form and applicable registration fee must be submitted and received by 5p.m. on Friday, November 28, 2025 or until available spaces are filled. All correspondence, notifications, and updates regarding the competition will be sent via email to the registered competitor. If the competitor is under the age of 18, a signature from a parent or legal guardian is required for the minor to participate. Each participant may only submit one entry. A printed copy of the Entry Description Form and optional photos are due by or at registration on Thursday, December 4, 2025.

ENTRY CATEGORIES

The following categories are open for entry into the 2025 Gingerbread House Spectacular at Christmas by the Sea

- **Adult Professional:** 18 years of age and older with professional cooking/baking training.
- **Adult Amateur:** 18 years of age and older entering as non-professional cook/baker.
- **Junior:** 17 years of age or younger entering with parent permission.

ENTRY ACCEPTANCE AND CONFIRMATION

Entries will be accepted on a first come first served basis. A fixed number of entries will be accepted into each category. Once that category is filled, registration will be closed. Please make sure your Competitor Entry Form is filled out correctly before submitting. Entries will be reviewed as they are received, if there are additional questions we may reach out to you for clarification.

ENTRY & JUDGING AND CRITERIA

Entries will be judged on:

- A) Overall Appearance
- B) Originality & Creativity
- C) Difficulty
- D) Precision
- E) Consistency of Declared Theme

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There is no required theme for the competition and the entry is not limited to the structure of a house. Competitors are encouraged to use their creativity when designing and constructing their entry, as long as it adheres to the competition rules, procedures, and judging criteria. The theme should be a competitor's own and consistent throughout the entry. The organizer reserve the right to refuse any entry deemed inappropriate. We respectfully ask that the design be appropriate for families with young children.

There must be at least 25% exposed Gingerbread on the entry, the entries with less than 25% of the Gingerbread exposed will be disqualified. The Gingerbread can be painted or dyed, but must clearly be recognizable as Gingerbread. Decorative elements that are handmade will carry more weight than similar prefabricated items, and using store bought kits is only permissible in the adult amateur and youth category and should still maintain individual creativity beyond the original kit. All rulings by the judges are independent and final. In the event of a tie, the competition Call Judge will be asked to break the tie. Judging will be closed to the public and competitors.



SIZE LIMITATIONS

The entry must be placed on a board base. Combined with a base, the entry must not be larger than 24 inches high, 24 inches wide and 24 inches long. We suggest using a plywood as a base for your entry. The usage of pegs or risers on the bottom of the base may be used, but is not required. If you wish to install pegs or risers on the underside of your base, they are considered as part of the base and should not cause the entry's height to exceed 24 inches.

MATERIALS & CONSTRUCTION

- Everything above the base of your entry that is visible must be constructed and composed completely of edible materials.
- Non-visible supports may be made of non-edible materials.
- The main structure of your entry must be constructed of at least 50% Gingerbread, and at least 25% of the Gingerbread must be exposed.
- The Gingerbread can be painted or dyed light colors, but must clearly be recognizable as Gingerbread.
- Edible materials are not limited to candies and icings.
- Use of gum paste, fondant, pastillage, chocolate, modeling chocolate, royal icing, isomalt, cast sugar, gelatin, and pressed sugar is encouraged.
- **Due to the danger of working with hot sugar, techniques using poured hot sugar or isomalt are reserved for the adult categories.**
- Any entry with non-edible components visible will be automatically disqualified.
- No external or internal lighting may be used.
- Candies must be unwrapped and free of any non-edible materials.
- Non-edible materials such as paint and/or ribbon can be used only to decorate the outer edge of your plywood base and are considered as part of the base and should not cause the entry's height to exceed 24 inches.
- All entries must be solely constructed by the individual entering the competition.
- For safety precautions, Junior competitors may be supervised, by a parent, legal guardian, or classroom teacher when Junior competitors require assistance with operating the oven and/or stove top.

ENTRY IDENTIFICATION

Entry must be clearly labeled with the assigned entry number visible on the front of the base for judging reference. If you arrive without your entry number clearly showing, you will be required to add it at registration.

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ENTRY DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this description is to inform the voters of your vision, process, materials, and techniques used in creating your entry. This is also where any backstory of your entry or interpretation of your theme that can be briefly explained. The Entry Description Form and optional supporting photos are due on or before November 30 and can be sent digitally to gingerbread@unitedmidcoastcharities.org or brought in person during drop off.

ARRIVAL & REGISTRATION PROCESS

We ask that you keep to the 4-6 p.m. time frame and arrive with the majority of the piece assembled, you will only have 30 minutes to make any final touches.

The registration desk for set up on Thursday, December 4, 2025 is located just inside the ground level back door of 16 Bay View Hotel. This is accessible from Camden Town Landing or Bay View Landing. After registering, you will be directed to your entry's dedicated placement area in the room. Competitors should enter at this location. You must promptly move your vehicle to an approved parking area once you have unloaded your entry. If you have a small hand cart, you are encouraged to bring it to minimize wait time. We strongly encourage having someone designated to move the vehicle while the entry is being moved into the Conference Room at 16 Bay View Hotel and set up. Prior to judging, entries are not to be handled by any member of the 16 Bay View Hotel staff or volunteers. The organizer, staff and volunteers will be on hand to hold doors open and direct entrants where to go.

We ask that after you register at the desk, place your entry in its designated space you return to park your car, if not already done and not linger within the conference room space.

FINAL TOUCHES

Any components of the entry that need to be added, fixed, or secured may be made during the registration time slot you are assigned and will have 30 minutes to make any last minute finishing touches. At this time the doors will be shut for photography and judging. We reserve the right to disqualify competitors who do not adhere to this time constraint.

DEPARTURE PROCESS

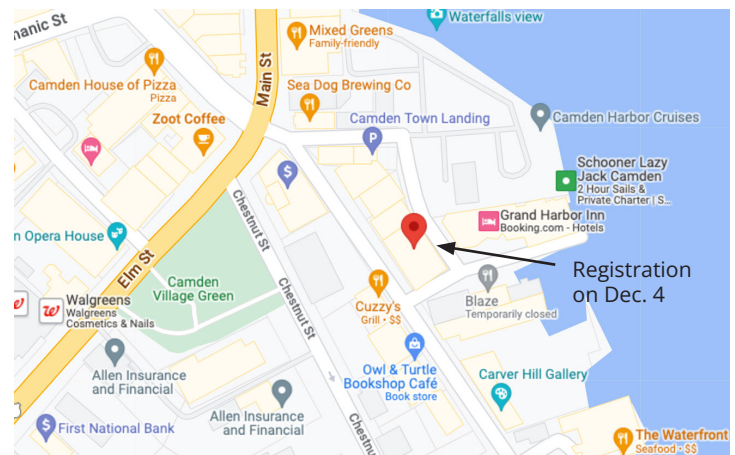
After the judging has concluded competitors who wish to bring their Gingerbread creations home can retrieve them after the competition on Saturday, December 6 between 5-6 p.m. Winners of auctioned houses will be notified and required to retrieve those upon payment between 5-6 p.m. as well.

HEALTH & SAFETY INFORMATION AND COMPLIANCE

We ask that anyone who is feeling ill refrain from attending, but we expect all attendees to take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing.

CANCELLATION POLICY / SNOW

The organizer acknowledges that situations may cause competitors to withdraw from the competition. In the event you are no longer able to compete, please inform us by email, at gingerbread@unitedmidcoastcharities.org. Adult participants will forfeit their registration fee. Christmas by the Sea takes place despite inclement weather, please plan accordingly.



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PLACING & PRIZES

Organizer will award prizes for the winner in each category. If a winning entry is taken home prior to the end of the viewing period the competitor will forfeit their prize.

- **Professional Adult Category:** First Place-Trophy and \$250 to a charity of your choice; Second & Third Place-Trophies
- **Adult Amateur Category:** First Place-Trophy and \$250; Second & Third Place-Trophies
- **Junior Category:** First Place-Trophy and \$250; Second & Third Place-Trophies
- **People's Choice Award:** Each visitor to the Gingerbread House Spectacular at Christmas by the Sea can cast one vote for their favorite entry to help choose the overall People's Choice winner. Voting will start on Friday, December 5, 2025 with the winner announced on Saturday, December 6, 2025. The People's Choice winner receives a trophy and \$250.

ENTRY PICK-UP OR DISPOSAL

Competitors that would like to keep their gingerbread entry after the competition has ended must pick up the entry between 5-6 p.m. on Saturday, December 6, 2025. Organizer reserves the right to distribute or dispose of unclaimed houses at their discretion for any entries not retrieved by 6:00 p.m., on Saturday, December 6, 2025.

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