

# GINGERBREAD HOUSE DISPLAY & CONTEST



SPICE UP YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON AT  
**WHITAKER CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND THE ARTS**

**CALL FOR ENTRIES** for Whitaker Center's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gingerbread House Display & Contest. Gingerbread houses will be on display throughout Whitaker Center lobby beginning Thursday, November 15 at Whitaker Center's *Light Up the Night* event through Sunday, December 30, 2018. **Space is limited, so please register early.**

Houses can be constructed of any edible materials. Please see the following pages for basic construction guidelines, drop off dates and registration information. To participate in the contest, simply register online by Sunday, November 11. Then the fun begins!

The Gingerbread House Display is free to view and open to the public for all to enjoy. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to make memories with your family or showcase your talents. Donations collected from contest entries and during the exhibit will help benefit Whitaker Center, a nonprofit dedicated to serving the Central Pennsylvania community through education, entertainment and the arts.

Join in the fun and be part of our annual community event this holiday season.  
We look forward to seeing your creativity on display!

**Register online at [whitakercenter.org](http://whitakercenter.org)**  
***Registration must be received by Sunday, November 11, 2018.***

*Please contact Amy Britt at [contests@whitakercenter.org](mailto:contests@whitakercenter.org) with any questions.*



222 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

717-214-ARTS (2787)  
[whitakercenter.org](http://whitakercenter.org)

Tuesday - Saturday | 9:30 am - 5 pm  
Sunday | 11:30 am - 5 pm

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### DROP OFF DATES

Sunday, November 11, 2018 from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Monday, November 12, 2018 from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.

**Note regarding drop off:** *Street parking is free on Sundays but may be limited. Whitaker Center staff will be on-hand to help facilitate the drop off process at our Third Street entrance.*

### DONATIONS

We request a \$10 donation from each entry in the gingerbread house contest. The donation will be collected during your registration and will offset the costs of display materials and staff time. Your donation directly benefits Whitaker Center's nonprofit mission to bring cultural enrichment to downtown Harrisburg.

### JUDGING

Judges for the contest will be selected from various local organizations and sponsors throughout our community. Judging of the houses will be held the morning of Wednesday, November 14.

**Winners will be announced at Whitaker Center's *Light Up the Night* event Thursday, November 15, 2018.** You will be notified once the judging is complete if you receive an award and winners will be posted on our website. Below is a list of the judging guidelines. Please remember that judging is subjective.

- Originality and creativity
- Neatness and overall appearance
- Degree of difficulty
- Majority of decorations on house are edible
- Main house structure is made of edible materials only
- Entry meets base and structure size guidelines

### AWARD CATEGORIES

There are four categories in which to enter:

1. Youth (Grade 5 and under)
2. Youth (Grades 6 - 12)
3. Adult (18+)
4. Family (Enter as a family if various ages will be working on the house)

**A first place winner and runner-up will be awarded in each category.**

### DISPLAY

Please note that most houses will be seen mainly from front and side viewing, depending on placement. While the gingerbread houses will be on display from November 15 through December 30, some houses may be removed early due to deterioration. **Be sure to use the Royal Icing recipe provided to help improve the longevity of your entry.** Every effort will be made to accommodate requests to group houses together, but this is not guaranteed in order to ensure the overall visual integrity and appeal of the display.

## CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES

### BASE MATERIALS

The house should be constructed on a sturdy base, such as extra heavy cardboard, foam core, or wood. If using cardboard, cover the base with aluminum foil to account for icing moisture.

### BASE SIZE

The base size is not to exceed 12"x 12" (inches) for all categories.

The base size should not extend more than 3" (inches) beyond the perimeter of the house. We may not be able to accommodate entries with large yards or ancillary structures.

### GINGERBREAD HOUSE STRUCTURE

- Structure cannot exceed 2' (feet) in height. We suggest a small to medium sized single house structure rather than scenes. Be sure to account for heat, moisture, weight, exhibit run-time, and other uncontrollable variables when considering edible decoration elements.
- No battery operated or electric components can be included in the structure.
- Do not use any material on your house that requires refrigeration.
- Use only the Royal Icing recipe provided on the following page to both assemble and decorate your house.
- Unless advance arrangements have been made with Whitaker Center through Amy Britt, all houses will be disposed of at the conclusion of the display on Sunday, December 30.
- If baking gingerbread from scratch, we recommend baking several days prior to decorating to account for shrinkage.
- Whitaker Center cannot be held responsible for any damage to your entry during the course of the display. Every effort will be made to safeguard the display for the benefit of contest participants and exhibit-goers.
- Only one entry per individual or group.
- The Identification Form on the following page must be taped to the underside of your base structure.

## ROYAL ICING RECIPE

Makes about 2 ½ cups

### *Mix together:*

1 pound Powdered Sugar | 3 tablespoons Meringue Powder | ½ teaspoon Cream of Tartar

### *Add:*

3 ½ ounces of water (just less than ½ cup)

Beat until icing forms stiff peaks and will hold a sharp line when knife is drawn through it.

Keep covered with a damp cloth to keep icing from drying out. Work with a small amount of icing at a time. Unused icing can be stored in a tightly closed container.



## IDENTIFICATION FORM

Please print and complete the following Identification Form. Cut on the dotted line above and secure it to the underside of your base structure.

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP AS YOU WISH IT TO APPEAR ON SIGNAGE:

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NAME OR TITLE OF GINGERBREAD HOUSE:

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CATEGORY: \_\_\_\_\_

*The following information is required but will not be published.*

CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your entry and good luck!*