

GINGERBREAD SHOWCASE ENTRY RULES

Fivesparks is pleased to announce our
First-Ever Gingerbread Showcase! A Competition and Exhibit

December 13 + 14, 2025

CATEGORIES

Competitive Entrant Categories. These entries will be judged and will be eligible for a prize. The registration fee is \$25 per entry. Entrants do not have to be residents of Harvard. There are three entrant categories:

1. Individual / Adult Category. Entrants over 18.
2. Individual / Teen Category. Entrants aged 13-18.
3. Team Category. Two or more individuals, at least one of whom is older than 12. *(Note that the registration fee applies to the entry, not the entrant. The fee is \$25 no matter how many people are on your team.)*

Non-Competitive Category. These entries will not be judged and will not be eligible for a prize. There is no registration fee for entries in this category. Entrants do not have to be residents of Harvard.

There is no age restriction for entrants in this category, and entrants may be individuals or groups.

PRIZES

A first-place prize will be awarded in each competitive category.

- Individual / Adult Category: \$200 gift card from Kitchen Outfitters, in Acton.
- Individual / Teen Category: Two 2 ½-hour art glass classes from Periwinkle Art & Glassworks, in Groton
- Team Category: 3-hour chef-led cooking and dining event for eight from Third Space Kitchen, in Groton

RULES

1. BASES. Entries in the three competitive categories must be placed on an 18" x 18" plywood base. Pre-cut bases measuring 18" x 18" x ½" will be available at Fivesparks and are included in the registration fee. (One board per entry.) You may pick up your base at the Fivesparks

front desk between Tuesday, November 25 and Wednesday, December 10. Our hours are: Tuesdays - Fridays 10 am - 4 pm and Saturdays noon - 4 pm. (We will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 27.) Fivesparks is located at 7 Fairbank St in Harvard.

You may use your own plywood base, as long as it measures 18" x 18".

Entries in the non-competitive category may be placed on any sturdy base, such as a tray or cookie sheet, in any dimensions, as long as it is not larger than 18" x 18". We do not recommend cardboard, since gingerbread constructions can be quite heavy. These entries will not be eligible for a pre-cut plywood base from Fivesparks.

Bases may be covered with any material you choose (for example, aluminum foil).

2. MATERIALS. Aside from the board, all entries must be constructed of 100% edible, long-lasting materials. Non-edible decorations and construction support materials – such as glues, pins, candy wrappers, figurines, and lighting – are not permitted.

Entries in the three competitive categories must be constructed of homemade gingerbread. Entries in the non-competitive category may be made from graham crackers, a gingerbread kit, or from homemade gingerbread.

Entries must consist primarily of gingerbread. When decorating your construction, please leave some gingerbread visible. Decorations can be anything edible that will last through the exhibit weekend.

3. STRUCTURES. Entries do not have to be houses or buildings, although these are allowed. All designs are permitted.

4. JUDGING CRITERIA. Entries in the three competitive categories will be judged on:

- overall appearance,
- creativity,
- neatness and precision, and
- difficulty

Everything on the base – primary structures and ancillary structures – will be judged.

5. TITLE. Please put the title of your entry (for example, "Seaside Shanty") on a card and drop it off with your entry. Please DO NOT include any entrants' names in this title.

IMPORTANT DATES

REGISTRATION CLOSE - Thursday, December 11. This applies to entries in the non-competitive category as well as those in the competitive categories.

BASES AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP AT FIVESPARKS FRONT DESK (competitive entries only) - Tuesday, November 25 - Wednesday, December 10. Our hours are: Tuesdays - Fridays 10 am - 4 pm and Saturdays noon - 4 pm. (We will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 27.) Fivesparks is located at 7 Fairbank St in Harvard.

ENTRY DROP-OFF - Thursday, December 11, between 6 pm and 8 pm and Friday, December 12, between 10 am and noon. Email janebiering@charter.net if you will be unable to make this window. Be aware that Fivesparks' representatives will need to position entries on display tables. Please ensure that your entry is stable enough to withstand (careful and respectful) movement.

JUDGES REVIEW - Friday, December 12 - Our panel of three judges will review entries in the late afternoon. (Sorry, no observers!)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS - Saturday, December 13 - Awards will be announced during the afternoon reception (2 pm - 4 pm).

EXHIBIT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - Saturday, December 13, 10 am - 4 pm and Sunday, December 14, noon - 4 pm.

ENTRY PICK-UP - Sunday, December 14, between 4 pm and 6 pm. The Showcase closes at 4 pm. Entrants must pick up their entries between 4 pm and 6 pm. Please email janebiering@charter.net if you will be unable to make this window. Unclaimed entries will otherwise be disposed of, as we – so unfortunately! – do not have space available to store them.