

CLEVELAND BOTANICAL GARDEN

Holiday Show Gingerbread House

Entry Form



BE A PART OF OUR BRAND NEW SHOW!

FROST is a brand-new winter experience at the Cleveland Botanical Garden featuring immersive indoor and outdoor displays celebrating plants, winter, and the natural world. Guests will enter to find themselves amidst a winter storm of lights and sounds in the Blizzard Ballroom before being enveloped by the Frost Portal – a tunnel of flowers that leads to the Realm of the Winter Spirit; an enchanting world of ice and magic. Each area of the garden is transformed to mesmerize visitors of all ages. Along with the new, we will still be featuring classic favorites like our gingerbread house competition.

New this year!

- The Gingerbread Competition will be on display through the run of the Holiday exhibit in only one session.
- There are now 3 categories participants can enter in: Youth (ages 5-17), Adult/Group (18 and up), and Professional
- Each category will have 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners voted on by our visitors, so more participants have the chance to win!
- Local "celebrities" will have the chance to view the show before the public and will pick their favorite house. Those winners will have a ribbon placed next to their house for the duration of the show.

Be sure to visit the Garden during your chosen session to see your house on display. All gingerbread house submissions will receive 2 general admission tickets to see the exhibit, valid through Sunday, December 31, 2023.

HOLDEN FORESTS & GARDENS PRIZES FOR 2023

Winners will be announced at the end of the show on January 2, 2024.

Prizes will include options like: a year membership for Holden Forest and Gardens, a goody basket full of Holden Forests and Gardens swag (plus some extra bonus activities!), and more!

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES ENTRY DEADLINE: November 3

Drop Off: November 13, from 8am-noon

Display Dates: November 18-December 31

Pick Up: January 2, from 8am-noon

GUIDELINES & LIABILITY

- There is a limited capacity, so please only one entry per household and only sign up if you plan to participate
- When signing up, you only need to sign up for the number of houses being entered, not the number of people participating.
- House must be received on a flat base that is between 1/4" - 3/4" thick (preferably plywood). The bases will be discarded along with the house should it not be picked up by the deadline.
- The base should be painted, decorated to create a complementary scene, or covered with foil
- The base for your house should be between 10"x 10" to 15"x 24"
- Drop Off and Pick Up is at the entrance at 11030 East Blvd. between 8am-noon on the designated dates only
- **Houses not picked up by noon on their designated Pick Up date will be discarded**
- When dropping off your house, the Entry Form must be included
- Holden Forests & Gardens does not guarantee the safety or security of entries and cannot be held responsible for damages incurred during exhibition

Holden Forests & Gardens reserves the right to:

- Refuse any entry it deems inappropriate for display
- Photograph and use images of any or all entries for purposes of promotion

QUESTIONS

For any questions please contact Anita Burton at aburton@holdenfg.org

CLEVELAND
botanical
garden

HOLDEN FORESTS & GARDENS

GARDEN HOLIDAY SHOW 2023 GINGERBREAD HOUSE ENTRY FORM – MUST BE DROPPED OFF WITH ENTRY

Category (Circle One): Youth (ages 5-17) Adult (18 and up) Professional

Choose Individual or Group: Individual Group/Family

Title of Gingerbread House: _____

Contact Name: _____

Organization Name (if applicable): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Check this box if you would like to pick up your gingerbread house after the display session is completed

Cut here and submit form above with entry.



HOW TO MAKE A GINGERBREAD HOUSE

Gingerbread houses are a tradition that you can continue every year with your loved ones. Building a gingerbread house takes patience and time. The icing is like the glue that makes a gingerbread house sturdy, since it is what binds everything together. The icing takes hours to dry so completing a house can take up to two days. Make sure to have decorative items on hand such as colorful candy, different colored frosting and fun cookie cutter shapes to go along with your house.

STEP 1: PICK YOUR HOUSE STYLE

There are many free patterns online, so search and find one that you like! An important aspect of a good house is a strong, sturdy base—and the best way to do that is with a balanced structure. You need to ensure that the walls can support the roof.

STEP 2: CUT OUT HOUSE SHAPES

Create your patterns and cut them out of cardboard.

STEP 3: MAKE THE DOUGH

You don't want to use dough that is too soft or crumbly, otherwise, the house wouldn't be able to support itself. Leaveners aren't necessary as you don't want the dough to puff up and distort the shapes once cut. Roll the dough and cut each shape out of dough using the patterns and bake as directed.

STEP 4: MAKE THE ROYAL ICING

While the cookies are cooling, prepare the Royal Icing. Immediately transfer icing to a pastry bag fitted with

a pastry tip. Cover any excess icing with a damp paper cloth, and if necessary, beat the icing on high to restore its texture before adding to the piping bag.

STEP 5: ASSEMBLE THE BASE

To assemble the gingerbread house, pipe the icing along the base and edges of the front wall and one side wall. Position the pieces at a 90° angle and place on the plywood base. Prop up the pieces with small jars or cans. Repeat the process with the back wall and a second side. Let icing dry for at least 30 minutes. The exact time will depend on how thick the icing is applied, but it should be dry to the touch.

STEP 6: ATTACH THE ROOF

To attach the roof, pipe icing along the peaked edges of the front and back walls. Position roof pieces into place and let fully dry before decorating.

STEP 7: DECORATE

Now that your house is assembled, it's time to decorate. The way you decorate your house is entirely up to you, but some traditional ways include candy canes, gumdrops, cookie wafers and frosting.

WEBSITE RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT

The Spruce Eats
Sally's Baking Addiction
A Taste of Home
Simply Recipes

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS: Show off your skills!
#CBGHOLIDAYSHOW2023