



INVITATION to PARTICIPATE

You are invited to display your artistic creativity by designing & creating a gingerbread house to be part of a "Gingerbread Village" at this year's Festival of Trees that will be viewed by the thousands of attendees. The structures can be designed by amateurs & culinary art professionals

Gingerbread Village Policies and Procedures

The gingerbread village competition is open to everyone.

- Submit as many entries as you wish.
- If you complete your entry in advance and choose to donate it, you will receive free tickets. Entries from individuals will receive two free admission tickets. Entries from groups will receive four admission tickets.
- Entries will be judged in two categories:
 - **Professional:** An individual of any age employed in the food preparation industry; a person or group paid to design or build their entry; or a person or group whose materials are supplied to them by a benefactor.
 - **Amateur:** An Individual designer or group of designers who pay for their own materials, are not paid to design or construct their entry, or are not employed in the food preparation industry.
 - The Metro West Festival of Trees reserves the right to decide whether an entry will be judged in the Professional or Amateur category.

Registering your gingerbread house

Let us know you're participating as soon as possible—and no later than Monday, December 2, 2013.

Copy and past this text into an e-mail message, add your answers, and send to Paul@HistoricMarlborough.org.

Category

Professional or amateur?

About you

Your name

Your address

Your home or office phone number

Your mobile phone number

Your e-mail address

About your team (if applicable)

Names of designers and builders

Ages (for children)

Your organization or sponsor

About your entry

Name of entry (maximum of 22 characters, including spaces)

Short description of entry

Do you need electricity?

Approximate size of the base of your display

If you register and are unable to complete your gingerbread house, please notify Paul Brodeur immediately: Paul@HistoricMarlborough.org.

Building your gingerbread house

Gingerbread "houses" can be traditional houses, as well as barns, doghouses, birdhouses, lighthouses, and other types of houses. Porches and gables will receive extra credit.

Build a sturdy house that can be transported easily.

- Your house should be mounted on a ½" or ¾" thick piece of plywood.
 - Minimum base size: 15" x 15"
 - Maximum base size: 30" x 30"
 - If your house is on a powered turntable, the base should be round.
We recommend the smallest base possible so that it's easier to carry, display, and transport.
- Your house can be no taller than 24".
- The house and the base should not weigh more than 50 pounds when assembled. If you include a border or fence, it should be at least 1 inch from the edge of the plywood base.
- Materials

- Gingerbread houses should be made of gingerbread. They should not be made of cake.
- Add colorful candies and icing to make your creation look festive and catch the eye of a buyer. You may use chocolate, gum paste, sugar, marzipan, royal icing, nougat, and other edible food products.
- You may use decorative items, such as tree branches, mirrors, miniature people and animals.
- Live plants, water ornaments, globes, and other water features are not permitted.
- You may include lights. If you do, bring an extension cord.
- Entries should be boxed to protect them prior to set-up. Include the name, address, and phone number of the designer.

Naming your display

Please give your creation a name. We will supply a sign with that name (22 characters, including spaces) and with the names of the people who made it and any sponsor or donor, if applicable. You'll submit this information on the entry form on the last page.

Entries from professionals

- Entries become the sole property of the Metro West Festival of Trees.
- All entries will be sold, with the proceeds benefiting the historic preservation and education efforts of the Marlborough Historical Society and Olde Marlborough, Inc.

Entries from amateurs

- You may donate your entry to the Metro West Festival of Trees. Entries that are donated will be sold, with the proceeds benefiting the historic preservation and education efforts of the Marlborough Historical Society and Olde Marlborough, Inc.

Judging

- Entries will be judged on creativity, originality, craftsmanship, and theme. The degree of difficulty will be taken into account.
- A first, second, and third place winner will be selected in each of the three categories: Houses built in advance by amateurs, houses built in advance by professionals, and houses built on-site by amateurs. (More information on the on-site amateur competition is below.)
- Winners will be determined by judges appointed by the Metro West Festival of Trees.
- Judging will take place at 2PM, Saturday, December 14th. All rulings are final.

Prizes and publicity

- 1st, 2nd & 3rd place ribbons will be awarded in each category. Winners must pick up their ribbons and have their pictures taken with their entry during the Festival hours.
- The Metro West Festival of Trees reserves the right to photograph entries for promotional purposes and may use your name and the name of the sponsor, if any, in publicity and promotional efforts.

On-site amateur competition

A limited number of gingerbread houses will be built by amateurs on Saturday morning, December 14. Completed houses may be donated to the Metro West Festival of Trees or kept by the individual or group who built it. There will be no charge for building materials if the house is donated. If the house is kept, there will be a charge of approximately \$10 for the materials. Builders can buy candy to add to their house from the Wayside Country Store, which will have a large selection to choose at the festival.

On-site amateur competition on Saturday morning, December 14

If you are interested in participating, copy and past this text into an e-mail message, add your answers, and send to Paul@HistoricMarlborough.org as soon as possible—and no later than December 3.

About you

Your name

Your address

Your home or office phone number

Your mobile phone number

Your e-mail address

About your team

Names of designers and builders

Ages (for children)