

***The Magic of Gingerbread* Competition Guidelines** **2013 Holiday Exhibition • Springfield, MA**

The Springfield Museums are pleased to announce *The Magic of Gingerbread* Competition. We invite interested bakery shops, schools, individuals and young people to submit design plans for imaginative gingerbread houses by November 15, 2013. **Any structure, including designs based on holiday tales, recreations of historic homes or buildings, and magical make-believe creations, can be eligible.**

Entrants will be notified about selection decisions no later than November 18. Completed gingerbread houses must be delivered to the Museums on November 25, and will be on display in the Springfield Science Museum from November 29-December 31, 2013. Ribbons and awards will be presented on November 29 at 4 pm.

The following guidelines have been set forth and established by the Springfield Museums for the purpose of *The Magic of Gingerbread* Competition. Please retain a copy of the guidelines for your records. For additional information call Laura Scott at 413.263.6800, ext. 387, or email lscott@springfieldmuseums.org.

ENTERING and QUALIFYING TO ENTER

The competition is open to anyone ages eight (8) and up. Only one (1) gingerbread house per entry form will be accepted. To be eligible for the competition, a signed and completed entry form must be received by fax or mail prior to 5 pm on Friday, November 15, 2013. Gingerbread houses that are not pre-registered will not be accepted.

Entry numbers will be assigned upon receipt of completed forms, and competitors will receive a letter or e-mail with an entry number confirming their acceptance into the 2013 competition no later than Monday, November 18. The Springfield Museums reserve the right to refuse any entry deemed inappropriate.

The Magic of Gingerbread Competition proposal & entry form must be signed by the individual entering the competition. If the individual is younger than the age of eighteen (18) by the date of the gingerbread house delivery day, a signature from a parent or legal guardian is required in addition to the minor's signature.

Entrants who submit the proposal & entry form by October 31, 2013 will receive recognition in our exhibition program booklet.

CANCELLATION POLICY

The Springfield Museums understands that situations may necessitate withdrawing from the competition. In the event you are no longer able to compete, please notify Laura Scott at lscott@springfieldmuseums.org or 413.263.6800, ext. 387.

CONTEST DIVISIONS

- *Professional Division:* Bake Shops, Caterers, Restaurants, or Professional Bakers
- *Adult Division:* Individual or group adult, age 18 & up
- *Youth Division:* Individual or group youth, age 8-17
- *Staff Division:* Museum employees (not eligible for award prizes)

JUDGING PROCESS and CRITERIA

Visitors will vote for their favorite gingerbread entry in each division throughout the opening day on Friday, November 29. Only one ballot per visitor is allowed. Ballots will be counted and an Award Ceremony will be held at 4:00 pm. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson of the Gingerbread Committee will determine a winner based on the following criteria: Overall Appearance; Originality & Creativity; and Difficulty & Precision.

Visitors to the exhibition will continue to vote in the People's Choice Awards until December 31, 2013. The final winners in each division will be posted on the Springfield Museums' Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/SpringfieldMuseums>.

AWARDS

Visitor ballots cast between 10 am and 3:45 pm on Friday, November 29 will determine the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each division for the *Gingerbread Fairy Tales Awards Ceremony*. Winners in each division will receive:

1st Place: A household membership to the Springfield Museums (\$75 value) and a \$100 holiday gift basket.

2nd Place: A household membership to the Springfield Museums (\$75 value) and a \$50 holiday gift basket.

3rd Place: A household membership to the Springfield Museums (\$75 value).

CONTEST RULES (FOR ALL DIVISIONS)

1. Entry must be original – no gingerbread kits allowed.
2. The entry must fit one of the three thematic areas of the exhibit: 1) a design based on a holiday tale 2) a recreation of a historic building, or 3) a magical make-believe creation.
3. Entry must have major components (such as walls and roofs) constructed of gingerbread (not graham crackers, cookies, cake, etc).
4. All visible components of the display must be edible. For example, foil or plastic wrapped candies must be unwrapped; contestants may not use lollipops with paper or plastic stems, etc.
5. You may add electric lighting to your entry.
6. Entry must have been constructed in 2013.
7. The entry must be delivered in completed form attached to a sturdy base (plywood recommended) enabling it to be freestanding. Bases must be completely concealed with an edible product. (However, the sides of the base do not have to be concealed with an edible product and may be trimmed with ribbon or other material.)
8. **Participants must register for the competition by November 15, 2013.** Entry forms may be obtained by calling the Springfield Museums at 413.263.6800, ext. 387, by stopping by the Museums' Welcome Center, or downloading an entry form from the museum website at springfieldmuseums.org.
9. All completed gingerbread structures must be delivered to the Museum during the hours of 9 am-5 pm on November 25, 2013. The entries will remain on display at the Museum from November 29-December 31, 2013. Entries may not be picked up earlier or later than January 2. No exceptions.
10. The Museums reserve the right to not display an entry if it is considered to be inappropriate or not of show quality.

ENTRY DROP OFF and PICK UP

Completed gingerbread structures must be delivered to Tolman Auditorium of the Springfield Science Museum between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm on Monday, November 25. No exceptions. Display registration tables in the Tolman Auditorium will be divided by division.

The location of gingerbread house displays in the exhibition hall will be determined by exhibition staff.

Entries must be picked up on Thursday, January 2 at the Springfield Science Museum between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm. No exceptions. Entries not picked up by January 2 will be discarded beginning the morning of January 3.

The Springfield Museums cannot be held responsible for any damages incurred to the gingerbread house while on the Museums' property. Museum staff will take extra precautions to help ensure the safety of each entry.