



## 2023 Youth Contest Rules

### **Contest Entry**

1. All entries must be registered no later than Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 12PM to be eligible for judging. Late entries may be considered but are not guaranteed. We encourage you to submit pictures of your entries earlier than the deadline.
2. Children's entries can be submitted by emailing photo attachments of the structure to [gingerbreadhousekzoo@communityhomeworks.org](mailto:gingerbreadhousekzoo@communityhomeworks.org). Please include the contact person's full name, the builder(s) full name(s) and age(s), contact email and phone, and the name/inspiration for the structure. We will only use your child's first name and last name initial.
3. Contest participants must be current residents of Kalamazoo County.
4. Both individuals and teams may submit category entries. For example, families, groups of friends, and organizations may also submit contest entries. Only one entry per individual or group will be accepted. However, for this category, all those involved in the building must be 14 or younger.

### **Construction**

1. A limited number of gingerbread house kits and decorating materials are available to extend accessibility to the supplies to create an entry. Please contact [gingerbreadhousekzoo@communityhomeworks.org](mailto:gingerbreadhousekzoo@communityhomeworks.org) for more information.
2. All materials used to build the structure must be edible. Bases may be of, and covered with, non-food related material. Battery operated lighting is permissible. Kits may be used; however, difficulty and originality scores will be impacted.
3. Materials with a short shelf life/extremely perishable materials (ie fruit) should be avoided.
4. Structures should be no larger than 36" high/24" wide and must be constructed on a flat, hard surface (plywood, baking sheet/tray, cake board). Cardboard bases are not recommended.

5. This is a family-friendly virtual event. All entries should be appropriate for all ages.
6. Gingerbread Houses may be imaginative dwellings. Feel free to think outside the box (Ex: boathouse, lighthouse, birdhouse).

## **Viewing**

1. Youth contest entries will be displayed online via Community Homework's website at [www.communityhomeworks.org](http://www.communityhomeworks.org) and our social media. Pictures of each structure will be featured for public viewing. We encourage you to submit photos that highlight both the structure in its entirety and showcase special details.
2. Gingerbread house creators agree to permit photos and/or videos without payment or consideration and agree to waive any rights to approve the finished product where likeness appears. Photos and/or videos may be used electronically or in printed media, on social media, on our website, and in promotional or educational materials. There is no time limit on the validity of this release.
3. Contest participants are strongly encouraged to promote the contest and their entry via social media to drive higher traffic and increase participation in the event. Please use hashtag **#chwgingerbreadcontest** in all promotional posts.

## **Judging**

1. The Kids Under 14 Category entries will be judged by a group comprised of members of our staff, board members, and participants from our celebrity judging panel. The judges will use a scorecard for each top entry, based on the following criteria (on a 1-10 scale):
  - Originality & Creativity
  - Theme Used
  - Attention to Detail
  - Construction Mastery
  - Use of Edible Materials
  - Overall Appearance
2. The category winners will be announced live on Community Homeworks' Facebook page and YouTube Channel on Thursday, December 21 at 6 pm ET. Category winners will be awarded a custom engraved trophy.

3. In addition to the online youth contest, an in-person contest will be taking place in and around downtown Kalamazoo **December 3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>**. Please visit [www.communityhomeworks.org/gingerbreadhousekzoo](http://www.communityhomeworks.org/gingerbreadhousekzoo) for more information.