

# GEORGIA Festival of TREES



Christmas  
Gingerbread  
Scene

COMPETITION  
HANDBOOK

## Gingerbread Scene Registration Deadline

OCTOBER 31, 2024

### LATE REGISTRATION

We will accept late registrations until November 10, 2024. IF spaces are available and all required materials are submitted at the time of registration.

Thank you for your interest in entering Georgia Festival of Trees Christmas Gingerbread Scene competition. This competition will help create Christmas magic for thousands of Atlanta families.

Your entry will directly impact our community by raising essential funds to donate to Street Grace and Atlanta Redemption Ink - two Atlanta-based, non-profit organizations working to end domestic human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of youth and women right here in Georgia.

This packet contains essential information you will need to enter your Christmas Gingerbread Scene. These guidelines will ensure that your creation hold up well in the dry environment of the Georgia World Congress Center.

If you have any questions, please email us at [kathy.mcdaniel@gafestivaloftrees.org](mailto:kathy.mcdaniel@gafestivaloftrees.org).

With gratitude,  
Your Georgia Festival of Trees Family



## IMPORTANT DATES

### 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL GEORGIA FESTIVAL OF TREES

November 23, - December 1, 2024

(Closed Nov 27 - Nov 28 for Thanksgiving)

### DROP OFF DAY

Wednesday, November 20, 2024 (4pm - 8pm)

Thursday, November 21, 2024 (8am - 8pm)

### CHRISTMAS GINGERBREAD SCENE INFORMATION FORM

Deadline: October 31, 2024

Paperwork and basic gingerbread scene description form (theme, space needed for display, etc) must be completed at:

[gafestivaloftrees.org/donor/infoform](http://gafestivaloftrees.org/donor/infoform)



## DROP OFF DAYS

November 20, 2024  
4pm - 8pm

November 21, 2024  
8am - 8pm

- The Gas South Convention Center will open for drop off on at 4pm on November 20 and 8am on November 21.
- For security purposes, all Gingerbread Scenes must be delivered by 8pm November 21. No exceptions.
- Due to security and safety issues, we recommend children under 16 years of age be left at home.
- More specific information about day-of procedures will be emailed by Wednesday, November 7. If you have not received information by that date, please email us at [info@gafestivaloftrees.org](mailto:info@gafestivaloftrees.org).
- At check out, upon completion of your Christmas Gingerbread Scene, you will receive two "thank-you" tickets that can be used to attend the festival any day (November 23 - December 1, 2024..remember, we're closed November 27-28 for Thanksgiving)..

## Gingerbread Scene Construction Guidelines

- Structure should be constructed on a 1/2" or 3/4" plywood base not to exceed 18"x18".
- Structure should not exceed 24" in height. Weight is not to exceed 50 pounds.
- Competitors are permitted to use up to 20% mechanically produced components in their entry. Examples include: machine designed, 3D printed, and laser components. 80% of each entry must be handcrafted.
- Due to the lack of moisture in the venue, gingerbread scene components **MAY BE GLUED TOGETHER**. Royal icing may be used to cover the glue. Allow each portion to dry and harden before moving.
- Due to the weight of the decorated structure, as well as environmental conditions in the display areas, we suggest always building an infrastructure for support. The houses are on display for an extended period of time and may deteriorate if not enough support is built in or Royal icing used. Please consider using glue on all base components.
- Use only Royal icing. We cannot accept structures made with egg or butter icings as they quickly turn rancid and soften – causing the structure to disintegrate.
- Do not use any materials on your structure that require refrigeration (such as prepared Jello, etc).
- Build your structure as sturdy as possible to ensure safe travel.

## Gingerbread Scene Decorating Guidelines

- Your creation must have a CHRISTMAS or HOLIDAY theme.
- Be creative – think of ways to make your Christmas Gingerbread Scene stand out.
- Any structure – real or imaginary is eligible for entry.
- Use gingerbread or cookie dough for your main structure. Colorful candies and icing will make your creation look festive and catch the judge's eye. No artificial display or structural materials such as Styrofoam are allowed.
- Other than lights inside/outside the structure and GLUE, all gingerbread creations must be 100% edible. Candies must be unwrapped and free of any non-edible material. Example: lollipop sticks. If using lights, include any replacement bulbs and fuses.
- Display tables are covered with cloth. However, you may provide a table covering to compliment your creation.
- Georgia Festival of Trees reserves the right not to display an entry, if the entry is not considered of show quality.
- You will be allowed to donate your gingerbread house to a nursing home of our choice. We can dispose of your house or you can pick it up on Sunday, Dec 1, after 4:00, or Monday, December 2, between 9am and 2pm. All houses not picked up will be donated or disposed of.



## JUDGING GUIDELINES

### JUDGING CATEGORIES:

- Best in Show
- Most Creative
- People's Choice

### JUDGING CLASSES:

- Adult 18 & Older
- Youth 9-17
- Child 5-8

### JUDGING PROCEDURES:

- Georgia Festival of Trees invites influential community members to volunteer their time and work together to name the 2024 festival winners in categories Best in Show and Most Creative. Judges will only be privy to the tree, wreath, and gingerbread name. All donated items will be anonymous to the judges.
- Each winner will have a ribbon displayed on their custom tree/wreath/gingerbread creation sign during the festival.
- Winners will receive their ribbon after the Festival concludes on December 1, 2024.
- The Best in Show and Most Creative winners will be announced Friday, November 22th at the First Night Celebration Gala, on social media, and the Georgia Festival of Trees website.
- The People's Choice winners in each judging class will be announced the morning of Saturday, November 30, on social media and the Georgia Festival of Trees website. Winners will receive their ribbon after the festival ends on December 1st - and bragging rights for next year!

