

Plans are underway for the 27th Annual Gingerbread Festival at the Waelderhaus, sponsored by the Kohler Foundation!

All schools and groups in area counties are invited to participate. **Entry forms are due November 6, 2023.** From November 24 to December 30, your gingerbread creations will be on view and visitors will vote for their favorite in each category. The Gingerbread Festival will be open to the public, free of charge Sunday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Weekends also feature merry musical performances!

Waelderhaus Gingerbread Festival Entry Guidelines:

1. All Sheboygan County pre-school, elementary, middle and high schools are invited to submit gingerbread creations for the contest as well as other community/youth-serving groups, like scouts, 4-H groups, etc. Art classes, cooking classes, other classes or organized groups of students and teachers may submit gingerbread creations. The "Open" category allows anyone who doesn't fit into any other categories to compete including families, teachers, and business professionals—or perhaps your book club, knitting group, etc!
2. **Gingerbread submissions must be delivered to the Waelderhaus on Tuesday, November 21, between noon and 5pm.** If you're not able to deliver your creation on the date, please let us know so that we may arrange a different time/date for you.
3. Judging will be divided into seven categories: Pre-school, elementary K-2, elementary 3-5, middle school 6-8, high school 9-12, community/service groups and open.
4. Cash prizes will be awarded for first (\$500), second (\$250) and third (\$100) place in each category. Cash prizes can only be given to organizations that are classified as tax-exempt public charities (Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) or public institutions such as schools or governmental entities. Participants whose entries win a cash prize must name a tax-exempt organization whom they would like to have benefit from their award.
5. The following information should be included when delivering the creation to the Waelderhaus:
1. Name of the school or organization, 2. Age category, 3. Teacher or advisor's name, 4. Name of the class/group involved in the gingerbread construction, and
5. Title of creation.
6. For the Open category, ANYONE may enter. If a family chooses to enter, family members of varied ages including adults over the age of 18 may work on the project together. If a professional decides to enter – e.g., teachers; they may work alone or with a group of teachers. If your group is not part of a tax-exempt organization, be prepared to select one to donate winnings to.
7. For the categories related to grade level, children age 3 – 18 must construct the house with an adult(s) only providing basic information and assistance – e.g. baking the gingerbread. If more than one child is involved, they will still enter in the grade level categories though at the grade level of the oldest child in the group.
8. All gingerbread creations must be mounted on a plywood board or comparable sturdy platform large enough to accommodate the structure, but no larger than 2 feet by 2 feet. There is no height limitation for the structures. If your creation is smaller than 2x2, that's great! Please put it on a smaller base as that helps us make the best use of our space.
9. Gingerbread houses must be constructed of entirely edible materials except for glue or toothpicks that may be used to adhere materials, in addition to frosting. Homemade

gingerbread, purchased gingerbread, graham crackers or any variety of cookies or crackers, either homemade or purchased may be used as the basic building material. Candies, confections, gum drops, chocolate chips, candy canes, licorice, hard candies, coconut, etc., may also be used. Use edible materials that will not melt or deteriorate easily.

10. Gingerbread creations may be as grand as castles or as small as a cottage, but they must depict a lodging or structure that people would use. The house could also include a surrounding yard, fences, trees, people or animals, or other items, if desired. Some examples of gingerbread structures that were submitted in past years were schools, churches, cottages, castles, barns, stores, log cabins, gazebos, clock towers, boats and even outhouses!
11. Photos of your gingerbread creation or a brief video (15 seconds or less) can be submitted to Kohler Foundation by emailing files to jen.balge@kohler.com
12. Each visitor to the Waelderhaus will be asked to cast a vote for his or her favorite gingerbread creation in each of the seven categories. The votes will determine the winners. The winners will be announced in January 2024.
13. Schools or individuals may pick up the gingerbread creations, if they wish at the Waelderhaus on January 2nd or 3rd, 2024 between noon – 5pm. If you do not wish to pick up your creation or need to arrange a different date/time for pick-up, please let me know.

We hope you are as excited about the 2023 festival and contest as we are! Please reach out with any questions!

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