



2021 RULES AND ENTRY FORMS

THEME: VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS

EVENT DESCRIPTION

The fifth annual Gingerbread House Challenge taking place at Hardywood Richmond on Sunday, November 14, 2021, dares local businesses, nonprofits, student groups, and artists to form teams and *literally* display their holiday spirit and creativity by constructing a gingerbread house centered around the 2021 theme, “Virginia is for Lovers”. Hosted by BHCyp, the young professionals board of the Better Housing Coalition, event attendees will vote on their favorite displays, and an expert judging panel will crown the \$1,000 Grand Prize Winner! Houses will be up for auction, and 100% of proceeds will support BHC’s mission of changing lives and transforming communities through high-quality affordable housing. So don’t be a Scrooge - join the fun and support a great cause!

KEY DATES

ENTRY FORM DEADLINE:	OCT. 15, 2021
\$100 ENTRY FEE DUE:	OCT. 22, 2021
ENTRY NARRATIVE DUE:	NOV. 3, 2021
EVENT DAY CHECK-IN:	NOV. 14, 2021; BEGINNING 11AM
JUDGING & AWARDS:	NOV. 14, 2021; 3:30- 5:30PM (subject to change pending COVID restrictions)

REGISTRATION

Teams:

Due to spacing requirements, the number of entries will be limited to a total of 20. You are encouraged to submit your entry form early and before the deadline to ensure entry into the competition. To be eligible for the competition, a completed and signed copy of **Competitor Entry Form must be received by email at s.fernald@betterhousingcoalition.org prior to 11:59PM on Friday, October 15, 2021.** Entries that are not pre-registered will not be accepted.

Teams are limited to 2-6 participants. Individuals will not be considered. The Competitor Entry Form must be signed by all members of the team (and parent/guardian where necessary), and one member must be designated the Team Captain. Team Captains must be older than 18 years of age at the time of the competition date and all team members must be committed to only one team. Discovery that greater than six people have worked on any element of the final gingerbread house is grounds for disqualification and forfeiture of registration fee.

Subjects represented in displays will be claimed on a first come, first served basis, and multiple teams will not be permitted to depict the same subject matter. You may see a listing of competitors and their selections [here](#). BHC representatives will enter a team’s subject selection once the completed entry form is received. BHCyp reserves the right to refuse any entry deemed inappropriate. For additional questions, please contact Sarah Fernald s.fernald@betterhousingcoalition.org

Entry Fee:

To complete registration, your team's **\$100 entry fee must be received by Friday, October 22, 2021.** Please note that entry numbers are assigned once entry fee is received, and entry number determines placement within the competition.

Checks for the entry fee should be made to Better Housing Coalition and mailed to:

Better Housing Coalition ; Attn: Gingerbread House Challenge

PO Box 12117

Richmond, VA 23241

Payments can be made online, but a **\$3 service fee applies**. To submit your \$103 team entry fee online, visit <https://www.betterhousingcoalition.org/get-involved/donate/>, and in the Comments include “your team name, Gingerbread Challenge”.

BHCYP understands that situations may cause competitors to withdraw from the competition. In the event you are no longer able to compete, please inform Event Organizer, Sarah Fernald at s.fernald@betterhousingcoalition.org . **Registration fees are non-refundable after September 15, 2021.**

ENTRIES AND EVALUATION

Theme:

The 2021 theme is “**Virginia is for Lovers**”; entries are not limited to the structure of a house. Competitors are welcome and encouraged to uniquely design their entry for the competition, as long as the entry is in keeping with the competition rules and procedures and the judging criteria. Competitors will not be allowed to represent a song that another registrant has previously selected. You may see a listing of competitors and their selections [here](#).

Size Limits:

Entry must be placed on a base. Entries combined with a base must not be larger than 24 inches high, 24 inches wide, and 24 inches long. We suggest using ½” or ¾” plywood as a base for your entry. Use of pegs or risers on the bottom of the base is encouraged for ease of transport but not required. **If you wish to install “legs” on the underside of your base, the legs are considered as part of the base and should not cause the entry’s height to exceed 24 inches.**

Materials:

All visible elements of your entry must be edible; interior structures are allowed to be made of non-edible material. The main structure of your entry must be constructed from gingerbread, some of which should be exposed. Edible materials are not limited to candies and icings. Handmade elements are encouraged. Note that refrigeration for entries will not be provided.

Entrants will not be provided with a power source; should you choose to add lighted or powered elements, they should be battery powered. Non-edible materials such as paint and/or ribbon are approved only to decorate the outer edge of your base only (not to exceed the length and/or width of the base). All structures must be free standing with the ability for judges to view on all sides.

Entry Narrative:

Each team is required to submit a brief narrative no later than Friday, November 3. Tell the adoring public why your design is the best! How did you decide on your design? What does it say about your organization? How does it fit the theme of the competition? Narratives will be included in a guidebook so guests can find your entry to cast their vote. **Please keep your narrative to 200 words or less.**

Voting and Judging Criteria:

We encourage teams to have representatives present throughout the competition to drum up excitement and capture public votes, however it is not required. You **are required to have a team representative present during judging and awards ceremony**; judging will be held on Sunday, November 14, 2021 at approximately 3:30PM with an Awards Ceremony held at approximately 5PM. Should the event be forced to a virtual format, team representatives will have the option to video call with the judges as they evaluate your entry.

The **expert** judging panel will evaluate entries on 1) Overall Appearance, 2) Originality, 3) Difficulty, and 4) Consistency of Theme.

For juried prize, decorative elements that are handmade will carry more weight than similar prefabricated items.

All rulings by the judges are independent and final; they are in no way influenced by BHCYP members or affiliates. In the event of a tie, the competition Call Judge will be asked to break the tie.

Prizes:

Prize checks will be sent to the winners after the competition and will be mailed to the address that is provided on the entry form. In the event a team entry wins a prize, the team captain will be the recipient of any prizes and is responsible for distributing to the team members as he/she sees fit.

- Juried Grand Prize: \$1,000
- Juried Runner Up: \$500
- People's Choice: \$500

Entry Auction:

By registering for this challenge, competitors agree to the auction of their gingerbread entry after the competition. All donations collected from the auction of entries will support Better Housing Coalition's mission of changing lives and transforming communities through high-quality, affordable housing in the Richmond region. Winning bidders are responsible for transporting the display on the day of the event by 6:00pm or pick up on Monday, November 15 at noon. In the event that an entry is not bid upon or picked up, the team captain should pick up the entry or it will be discarded at 1:00pm on Monday, November 15, 2021.

COVID Accommodations:

BHCyp is closely monitoring the situation with the pandemic. If it is determined that the event must move to a virtual format, we will notify teams with as much advance notice as possible. In the event that we do move to a virtual format, below is the plan of action.

Judging: Teams will deliver their entries to a predetermined location for judging on November 14 where they will be evaluated by our expert judges panel. The same criteria will apply as above. Captains or team representatives will be given a time slot to attend the judging or video call with the panel to give insight into your team's process, details, etc. The results from the juried part of the competition will determine the \$1000 Juried Grand Prize and \$500 Runner Up winners.

People's Choice: In the event that we must switch to a virtual format, teams wishing to compete in the people's choice competition will participate in a week long social media and fundraising campaign starting November 15 and concluding on November 21. Teams will create a fundraising page with Just Giving specifically for your entry. After registering, you will be provided with language, prompts and ideas to share your story. All the funds raised by your team support BHC's mission.

Awards: Awards for both the juried and people's choice competitions will be announced virtually on Tuesday, November 22, time TBD.

PLEASE SEE THE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR THE OFFICIAL 2021 BHCyp GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION ENTRY FORM. THIS FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY 11:59PM ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2021. EXCEPTIONS FOR LATE ENTRY FORMS WILL NOT BE MADE. COMPETITORS WILL RECEIVE AN EMAIL CONFIRMATION ONCE THE ENTRY FORM HAS BEEN PROCESSED.

**GINGERBREAD HOUSE CHALLENGE
COMPETITOR ENTRY FORM**

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 15, 2021

ENTRY FEE: \$100

Team Name or Affiliation: _____

Name of Gingerbread Entry: _____

Subject Depicted in Your Entry*: _____

Team Captain Information: _____

(First) (Middle Initial) (Last)

(Mailing address)

(City) (State) (Zip Code)

(Phone) (Email address)

Social Media Handles:

Instagram: _____

Twitter: _____

Facebook: _____

Linked In: _____

Acceptance of Rules and Liability:

I understand that to be eligible for the competition; I must agree to the following as indicated by my signature below:

1. I will adhere to all competition rules and procedures as stated above or face disqualification.
2. I must deliver my completed entry to Hardywood Brewery Richmond (or other predetermined location) on Sunday, November 14, 2021, starting at 11:00AM
3. **My entry will be auctioned off to benefit the mission of Better Housing Coalition.**
4. I understand that at no time does BHC or Hardywood Brewery guarantee the safety or security of my entry and cannot be held responsible for any damages incurred to my entry on or off the Brewery's property.
5. Permission is hereby granted to Better Housing Coalition and Hardywood Brewery to print or otherwise duplicate the picture or likeness of my entry and/or myself with my entry for either internal or external release, this includes print and online publications, plus local and network television. I understand that the image of my entry becomes the property of BHC.
6. I hereby RELEASE, WAIVE, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE Better Housing Coalition their officers, agents, affiliates or employees (hereinafter referred to as RELEASEES) from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action whatsoever arising out of or related to any loss, damage, or injury, including death, that may be sustained by me, or to any property belonging to me, while participating in such activity, while in, on or upon the premises where the activities are being conducted, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH LOSS IS CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, or otherwise and regardless of whether such liability arises in tort, contract, strict liability, or otherwise, to the fullest extent allowed by law.
7. I further hereby AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS the RELEASEES from any loss, liability, damage, or costs, including court costs and attorneys' fees that Releases may incur due to my participation in said activities, WHETHER CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE OF RELEASEES or otherwise, to the fullest extent allowed by law.
8. IN SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, I ACKNOWLEDGE AND REPRESENT THAT I have read the foregoing Wavier of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement, understand it and sign it voluntarily as my own free act and deed; no oral representations, statements, or inducements, apart from the foregoing written agreement, have been made; I am at least eighteen (18) years of age and fully competent; and I execute this Agreement for full, adequate and complete consideration fully intending to be bound by same.

Printed Name of Team Captain: _____ **Birth Date:** _____

Signature of Team Captain: _____ **Date:** _____

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GINGERBREAD HOUSE CHALLENGE

COMPETITOR ENTRY FORM (cont.)

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 15, 2021

LIST ADDITIONAL TEAM MEMBERS BELOW

Maximum team size is 1 captain (info on previous page) + 5 team members (listed below)

Printed Name of Entrant: _____ **Birth Date:** _____

Signature of Entrant: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian (if applicable): _____ **Date:** _____

I am aware that this competition takes place at a brewery and the entrant listed above is authorized to participate in the competition.

Printed Name of Entrant: _____ **Birth Date:** _____

Signature of Entrant: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian (if applicable): _____ **Date:** _____

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