



## 2025 RULES AND ENTRY FORM

### THEME: Where in the World is Gingy?

#### EVENT DESCRIPTION

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The ninth annual Gingerbread House Challenge taking place at Hardywood Richmond on Sunday, November 9, 2025, 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 chosen 2025 “**Where in the World is Gingy?**”. 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! 100% of the 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

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|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| ENTRY FORM DEADLINE: | OCT. 13, 2025                   |
| \$100 ENTRY FEE DUE: | OCT. 24, 2025                   |
| ENTRY NARRATIVE DUE: | NOV. 2, 2025                    |
| EVENT DAY CHECK-IN:  | NOV. 9, 2025; BEGINNING 9:00 AM |
| JUDGING:             | NOV. 9, 2025; 11AM - NOON       |
| AWARDS:              | NOV. 9, 2025; 5PM               |

#### ENTRIES AND EVALUATION

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##### Theme:

The 2025 theme is “**Where in the World is Gingy?**”; entries are not limited to the structure of a house. Competitors are welcomed 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. *This year, teams will be required to incorporate the small gingerbread mascot into their design- think “Where’s Waldo?” or “Where In the World is Carmen San Diego?”.* How you choose to do this is up to you and we encourage maximum creativity! We invite you to depict iconic landmarks, cultural wonders, faraway places, etc. *Your creation must be a real-world location and Gingy must be represented in the design.*

Competitors will not be allowed to represent the same subject that another registrant has previously selected. Subjects are first come, first served. 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 Sunday, November 2.** Tell the adoring public why your design is the best! How did you decide on your design? How does it fit the theme of the competition? What does it say about your organization or team? 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:*****Judging Panel:***

The expert judging panel will evaluate entries on 1) Overall Appearance, 2) Originality, 3) Difficulty, and 4) Consistency of Theme. You can see last year's judging rubric [HERE](#).

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.

**\*NEW THIS YEAR\*** Judges will unanimously select a team for the 'Rising Star Award'. Teams who are new to the Gingerbread House Challenge within the past 3 years will qualify for this award. Judges will take overall creativity without necessarily being perfect, obvious team spirit/involvement on the day of the event, and/or a unique or unexpected twist on the theme. These parameters are not limited to this list – judges can take other elements into consideration at their discretion.

**You are required to have a team representative present during judging and awards ceremony;** judging will be held on Sunday, November 9, 2025 at 11AM with an Awards Ceremony held at approximately 5PM.

***People's Choice Voting:***

Each team will be given the opportunity to share a donation link two weeks prior to the competition to allow supporters to "vote" for your entry even if they are unable to attend the event. We will provide you with ideas to share with your network to make it as easy as possible.

We encourage teams to have representatives present throughout the competition to drum up excitement and capture public votes, however it is not required.

**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 the team's entry wins, the team captain will be the recipient of any prizes and is responsible for distributing to the team members as they see fit.

- Juried Grand Prize: \$1,000
- Juried Runner Up: \$500
- People's Choice: \$500
- **\*NEW THIS YEAR\*** Rising Star Award: \$250

## REGISTRATION

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### Teams:

Due to spacing limitations, the number of entrants will be capped at 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 [k.smith2@betterhousingcoalition.org](mailto:k.smith2@betterhousingcoalition.org) prior to 11:59PM on Monday, October 13, 2025.** 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 Kayla Smith [k.smith2@betterhousingcoalition.org](mailto:k.smith2@betterhousingcoalition.org)

### Entry Fee:

To complete registration, your team's **\$100 entry fee must be received by Friday, October 24, 2025.** *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: Kayla Smith

2108 W Laburnum Ave. Suite 200

Richmond, VA 23227

Payments can be made online, using this link, <https://www.betterhousingcoalition.org/get-involved/donate/>. Please forward your receipt to [k.smith2@betterhousingcoalition.org](mailto:k.smith2@betterhousingcoalition.org) with your team name to ensure your payment is properly allocated.

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, Kayla Smith at [k.smith2@betterhousingcoalition.org](mailto:k.smith2@betterhousingcoalition.org). **Registration fees are non-refundable after September 12, 2025.**

**PLEASE SEE THE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR THE OFFICIAL 2025 BHCyp GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION ENTRY FORM. THIS FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY 11:59PM ON OCTOBER 13, 2025. 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 13, 2025  
ENTRY FEE: \$100 (unless included in your sponsorship level)**

**Team Name or Affiliation:**

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**Name of Gingerbread Entry:**

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**Subject Depicted in Your Entry\*:**

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**Team Captain Information:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Last)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Mailing address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip Code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Phone) (Email address)

**Social Media Handles:**

Instagram: \_\_\_\_\_ Twitter: \_\_\_\_\_

Facebook: \_\_\_\_\_ Linked In: \_\_\_\_\_

**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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### 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 9, 2025, starting at 9:00AM
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

Forms should be emailed to [k.smith2@betterhousingcoalition.org](mailto:k.smith2@betterhousingcoalition.org) or mailed to Better Housing Coalition, 2108 W Laburnum Ave. Suite 200 Richmond, VA 23227, Attn: Gingerbread House Challenge.