

The 2025 Official Route 66 Gingerbread House Contest

Sponsored and Hosted by the Atlanta Public Museum, Atlanta, Illinois

Entry Form Deadline

Saturday, June 7, 2025 @ 4 PM CST

2025 Route 66 Gingerbread Awards Ceremony

Sunday, June 29, 2025 @ 2 PM CST

Entry Submission of Gingerbread Display

Saturday, June 28, 2025

- o Youth: 9 AM – 12 PM CST
- o CLOSED 12 – 2 PM CST
- o Teen: 2 PM – 5 PM CST

Sunday, June 29, 2025

- o Adults: 12 PM – 5 PM CST

Public Viewing/Voting

June 30, 2025 – July 31, 2025

Monday – Saturday, 10 AM – 4 PM;

Judging: Monday, June 23, 2025 - Wednesday, June 25, 2025

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The Annual Route 66 Gingerbread House Contest, Sponsored & Hosted by the Atlanta Public Museum during their Christmas in July event, will be held Saturday, June 21, 2025 – Sunday, June 29, 2025.

Contestants will bring their entries to the Museum on Saturday, June 21st & Sunday, June 22, for check-in; followed by closed judging on Monday, June 23rd – Wednesday, June 25th; with Awards on Sunday, June 29th at 2 PM CST. Depending on the number of entries, the Awards Ceremony may be closed to only the entrants, their families, and approved media outlets.

Gingerbread Artists of all ages and backgrounds are invited to compete for more than \$4500 in cash and prizes. In addition to the categories of: Adult, Teen, and Youth divisions, there will be additional prizes for Furthest Traveled, Most Innovative, Best use of the Route 66 theme, and the People's Choice Award, which will be awarded after the close of viewing on July 31, 2025.

JUDGING PROCEDURE

Judging will be conducted by an in-person panel of 5 judges selected by the Atlanta Museum Advisory Board. Each contestant will be assigned an entry number so that the judging will be completely blind. The judging panel's decision will be final and absolute in their selections.

WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Announcement of Winners will take place at 2 PM at the Atlanta Public Museum, with a reception and acknowledgement of our entrants. All categories will be awarded except for the People's Choice to be awarded at the conclusion of the viewing season. Winners are asked to be available for publicity, photos and interviews immediately following the awards or the next day as arranged.

PUBLIC VIEWING

Public Viewing of all entries will begin on Monday, June 30, 2025, at the Atlanta Public Museum at the posted designated times, and will continue until July 31, 2025. During this time, the public will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite by ticket/ballot vote. Upon the closing of the public viewing, the votes will be tallied, and the People's Choice Award will be announced.

OFFICIAL RULES

Please read all the information carefully and completely. The following rules have been established for The Official Route 66 Gingerbread House Contest (henceforth referred to as TOR66GHC) for the 2025 competition event sponsored by The Atlanta Public Museum, Atlanta, IL.

The deadline for entry submissions is **Saturday, June 7, 2025, at 4 PM CST**. The Atlanta Public Museum reserves the right to refuse any entry deemed inappropriate without explanation. For additional information/questions, please contact atlantamuseum@yahoo.com.

ENTRY OPTIONS/CATEGORIES

Two different options are available for entry: Individual or Team. Whether a team or individual, the entries complete against those in their category as a single entry.

INDIVIDUALS – the completed entry form must be received by: **Saturday, June 7, 2025, at 4 PM CST**. The person listed on the entry form will be the individual that will receive all correspondence, notifications, or updates regarding TOR66GHC via email. If the competitor is under the age of 18, then the consent of a parent or legal guardian is required in addition to the competitor's information. The age of the contestant must be provided (date of birth). Only one entry per individual.

TEAM ENTRIES – the completed entry form must be received by: **Saturday, June 7, 2025, at 4 PM CST**.

Each Team must designate a "Captain" that is solely responsible for receiving all correspondence, notifications, or updates regarding TOR66GHC via email. Only one (1) form per Team should be submitted. If entering as a school or civic group, the representative of the group should be listed as the Team Captain and provide their contact information.

If there are varying ages on the Team, the oldest member's age will determine the correct category that the entry should be entered. If a team member is under the age of 18, then the consent of a parent or legal guardian is required, and the age of the contestant must be provided (date of birth).

In the event a team entry wins a prize, the Team Captain will be the recipient of any prizes. Distribution of monies or ribbons will be left to the Team Captain. We are not able to provide ribbons for each participant, subject to change.

RECEIPT OF ENTRY SUBMISSION

Upon receipt of the entry form, a manual confirmation email providing the Entry Number and additional information will be sent. Any additional correspondence will be sent via email.

ENTRY CATEGORIES

The following categories are available for entry for The 2025 Official Route 66 Gingerbread Contest

- Adult Category – Individuals 18 years of age and older entering as a single entrant or team
- Teen Category – individuals between 13 – 17 years of age entering as a single entrant or team
- Youth Category – individuals between 8 – 12 years of age entering as a single entrant or team

ENTRY SPECIFICATIONS

JUDGING

All entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- Overall Appearance
- Difficulty
- Precision/Cleanliness of the Design
- Creativity
- Use of the Route 66 Theme

Although the title is The 2025 Official Route 66 Gingerbread House Contest, entries are NOT limited to house structures. This is a **ROUTE 66** competition and anything Route 66 is allowed. However, entries are required to be tasteful in nature as the competition is sponsored by The Atlanta Public Museum, so entries should be viewable by all ages. A good rule of thumb is -- if you have to ask if a particular design or idea is ok, it probably is not.

SIZE RESTRICTIONS

All entries must be placed on a board base, preferably plywood. Entries should not exceed 24 inches high (including base), 24 inches wide, and 24 inches long. No part of the design structure should extend beyond or hang over/down from the base. Pegs/risers/feet used under the base are preferred but not required. Pegs/risers/feet to count toward the 24-inch height restriction. Weight is NOT to exceed 50 pounds.

CONSTRUCTION & MATERIALS ALLOWED – **Read carefully for restrictions/age-appropriate materials**

Everything above the base must be edible. 75% of the main structure must be constructed of gingerbread, some of which should be exposed for verification. 60% of the materials used must be handcrafted. The remaining 40% can be mechanically produced, but still edible. Example: gumdrops

Edible materials are not limited to candies and icings. Use of gum paste, fondant, chocolate, modeling chocolate, royal icing, gelatin, sugars, etc. are allowed.

However, due to the danger of working with liquid sugar, Child Entries are **not** permitted to have “glass” windows, i.e. melted sugar candies.

Any entry with non-edible components or using unapproved techniques will be automatically disqualified from placing in the competition. No artificial display or structural materials such as Styrofoam, interior lighting or other electrical components will be allowed. Candies should be unwrapped, and the non-edible components removed, i.e. lollipop sticks or wrappers. Non-edible materials such as paint or ribbon can be used to decorate the base and is encouraged to provide a finished look to the overall entry.

Entries must be **COMPLETELY CONSTRUCTED** by the Individual(s) entering the competition. Teen & Youth competitors may be supervised for safety precautions by a parent, legal guardian, or classroom teacher. For example, assisting with operating stove top or removing items from the oven.

ENTRY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

Upon receiving the individual or team entry form, a unique identification number (UIN) will be assigned and provided to the entrant. This number must be easily visible on the finished entry. This could be as a house number, a banner, signpost, etc. on the constructed entry. If not part of the overall design, the number should clearly be visible on the base of the entry. If it cannot be seen, it cannot be judged.

ENTRY DESCRIPTION

To help the Judges fully understand and appreciate your entry, please provide a typed description and explanation of the entry. The Description Summary must be submitted with your structure.

Description should not exceed 2 pages, 8.5" x 11", double-spaced, font size 10 pt – 12 pt sized. Calibri Font preferred.

Some suggested information to share:

- Why did you pick this design? Did it change as you were making it?
- Have you seen this Route 66 structure in person (if it's a landmark)?
- How many hours do you think you spent making your entry?
- What did you find most challenging about creating your entry?
- How much does your design weigh?
- Fun, interesting facts about your build you want to share...

ENTRY REGISTRATION TURN-IN DAY

Entrants must turn in their entries on the designated day, at their designated time.

- Saturday, June 21, 2025
 - Youth Category: 9 AM – 12 PM, CST
 - Teen Category: 1 – 5 PM, CST

Registration Closed 12 Noon – 2 PM CST No Registrants will be accepted at this time

- Sunday, June 22, 2025
 - Adult Category: 12 PM – 5 PM, CST

The address for the Atlanta Public Museum is 114 SW Arch Street, Atlanta, IL located in the heart of Downtown Atlanta, on Historic Route 66.

The entrance for turn-in will take place through the rear of the building. Entrants will be able to park in the designated parking lot and enter through the rear entrance of Missy's Sweet Shoppe/Palm's Grill & Café for check-in. Signs will be posted throughout Downtown for ease in locating the parking and entrance areas.

UNLOADING YOUR ENTRY

- Entrants should park in the designated parking area and enter through the designated entry doors.
- A limited number of small carts will be available for transporting your gingerbread entries into the registration area. Carts are the property of the Atlanta Public Museum and Museum Staff or Volunteers may request them back at any time to accommodate other competitors and Museum needs. Hoarding of carts or refusing to return to Museum Staff could result in disqualification. If you have a small cart, you are encouraged to bring it with you to minimize waiting times.
- **NOTE:** Prior to judging, entries will **NOT** be handled by Museum Staff or Volunteers. Please make sure the person(s) delivering your entry, or yourself, can lift and place your entry.

REGISTRATION DESK

The Registration Check-in Desk will be located just inside the back entrance of Missy's Sweet Shoppe/Palm's Grill & Café. Here you will check-in, receive your Registration Welcome Packet, and your Competitor's designation badge.

GINGERBREAD TRIAGE AREA

Before moving onto the Designated Turn-in area, you may need to make some minor fixes to your entry. Any fixes must take place in this area. Once an is placed in the competition room, no additional touch-ups may take place. Only the provided tables may be used – competitors may not set up their own tables and workstations.

DESIGNATED TURN-IN AREA

Once you are satisfied with any fixes or touch-ups, you may proceed to the Designated Turn-in Area located on the 2nd Floor. There is an elevator down the hall (follow signs) to take you to the 2nd floor. If you prefer, there are two stairways also available.

At the Turn-in Area, the Description Summary will be submitted, and the entry checked for the UIN visibility. Once approved, the entrant and their entry may continue to the PR area.

PR AREA

In the PR area, entrants will pose for photographs, filming and a short 2 – 3 question interview. This is mandatory for media purposes. Additional photos, filming and questions will be required of the Top 3 winners in each category following the Awards Ceremony on Sunday, June 29, 2025.

COMPETITION ROOM

Once all PR requirements have been met, it's on to the Competition Room for turn-in. Museum Staff and Volunteers will direct you to the areas/location designated. No location is better than another. Please do not argue about your designated location. Once you have placed your entry and Entry Description, we ask that you exit the room promptly. Only registered Competitors and/or Parents/Guardians of registered Competitors are permitted in the Competition Room.

Competitors will have an opportunity to view all the entries on Sunday, June 29, 2025, beginning at 11 AM CST. At this time, Competitor's will vote on their "Competitor's Pick" – their favorite of all the entries. The winner of the Competitor's Pick will receive a cash prize during the Awards Ceremony.

PLACING AND PRIZES ***

The following prize money and ribbons will be as follows:

ADULT CATEGORY

Grand Prize: \$1000, Purple Ribbon, and name inscribed on The Official Route 66 Gingerbread House

Contest Trophy – Adult Division

2nd Place: \$500, 2nd place ribbon

3rd Place: \$250, 3rd place ribbon

TEEN CATEGORY

1st Place: \$500, Purple Ribbon, and name inscribed on The Official Route 66 Gingerbread House Contest Trophy – Teen Division

2nd Place: \$250, 2nd place ribbon

3rd Place: \$125, 3rd place ribbon

YOUTH CATEGORY

1st Place: \$100, Purple Ribbon, and name inscribed on The Official Route 66 Gingerbread House Contest Trophy – Youth Division

2nd Place: \$50, 2nd place ribbon

3rd Place: \$25, 3rd place ribbon

FURTHEST TRAVELED

The award for the Competitor who traveled the furthest distance with their entry, based on mileage (US mailing address) will be awarded \$200 and a ribbon.

MOST INNOVATIVE & BEST USE OF THE ROUTE 66 THEME

The awards for 'Most Innovative' and 'Best Use of Route 66 Theme' will receive \$200 each. These awards will be determined by the Judging Panel.

COMPETITOR'S PICK

Each entrant will receive one ticket in their Registration Welcome Packets to cast their vote for the Competitor's Pick. The voting timeframe for the Competitor's Pick award will be Sunday, June 29, 2025, beginning at 11 AM – 1:30 PM CST. Entrants will be asked to select their favorite entry across all categories. Only individual entrants or team captains (on behalf of the team) are permitted in the competition area and can place their vote during this time. The winner of the Competitor's Pick will win a cash prize, amount to be determined, and a ribbon.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Voting for the People's Choice will begin on Monday, June 20, 2025, and continue until July 31, 2025. Visitors to the Atlanta Public Museum will have an opportunity to vote for their favorite Gingerbread entry through the purchase of a ticket(s). The winner of the People's Choice will be announced on August 1, 2025, at 12 Noon via social media. The winner will receive a check for 1/2 of the ticket sales and a ribbon.

***** SPECIAL ITEMS OF NOTE REGARDING PRIZE MONIES**

- For all intents and purposes, APM considers the Entrant to be the 'owner' of the quilted entry item. Therefore, this individual will be the recipient of the prize money and ribbon(s) won.

- APM and the Judges Panel are awarding the ENTRY, not the individual involved in making of the entry/entries.
- IRS Guidelines require that a 1099 form be filed for all Entrants winning \$600 or more total. Prize money will not be released until a completed 1099 form has been received for IRS filing purposes.

POST DISPLAY PICK-UP

For competitors who wish to keep their Gingerbread creations, you may pick up your entries after the conclusion of the Public Viewing on the following dates and times:

August 2 - 5, 2025 Saturday, Monday & Tuesday, 10 AM – 3 PM Sunday, 12 PM – 3 PM

Competitors electing to pick up their entries must show their competitor's pin and ID prior to removing their entries. If you are having someone else pick up your entry for you, the Atlanta Public Museum **MUST** be notified **PRIOR** to their arrival for pick-up. Those individual(s) would need to show an ID matching the name that was provided to the Museum Staff and is on file. Entries will **ONLY** be released to the identified competitors or their designated representative.

In the case of the Team entries, only the Captain of the Team will be allowed to complete the pick-up unless otherwise specified **PRIOR** to arrival.

The Museum Staff will not verify changes to the authorized pick-up designee(s) at the time of pick-up. This is a no exception rule.

Any entries remaining after Wednesday, August 5, 2025 at 3 PM will become the property of the Atlanta Public Museum and it will be at their discretion to donate, sell/auction or dispose of the structures.

OFFICIAL COMPETITOR ENTRY FORM

- This form is required for **ALL** entries. *All fields are mandatory*
- **DEADLINE: Saturday, June 7, 2025 @ 4 PM CST**

Entry Classification (check one): Individual Team

Entry Category (check one): Adult (18 and older) Teen (13-17) Youth (8-12)

Date of Birth: ___/___/_____ If a Team, please use the age of oldest competitor

Entry Title - *May not exceed 36 characters including spaces*

Team Name – Team entries only. *May not exceed 36 characters including spaces*

Please provide the full name and age of all team members:

Complete the following as an Individual or the Team Captain

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. I understand the completed form must be submitted by email or direct mail by no later than 4 PM CST on June 7, 2025.
2. I understand that a completed Entry Description must be submitted with my completed Gingerbread entry at the time of registration on Saturday, June 21, 2025, or Sunday, June 22, 2025, at my designated entry time.
3. I understand that I must physically deliver my completed entry to the Atlanta Public Museum, Atlanta, IL on Saturday, June 21, 2025, or Sunday, June 22, 2025, at my designated entry time.
4. I acknowledge that if I am selected as one of the winners (1st, 2nd, 3rd, Furthest Traveled, Most Innovative, Best Use of the Route 66 Theme, or Competitor's Pick) that I must make my best effort to be available for publicity requirements immediately following the Awards Ceremony on Sunday, June 29, 2025.
5. I understand that my entry will remain on display until July 31, 2025.
6. I understand that if I wish for the return of my entry, that I or my prior designated representative must do so on Saturday, August 2nd, Sunday, August 3rd, Monday, August 4th, or Tuesday, August 5th, 2025 at the designated times. I also understand that should my entry not be picked up by the designated date(s) or time(s), my entry will become the property of the Atlanta Public Museum to dispose of as they deem appropriate.
7. By voluntarily participating in the Office Route 66 Gingerbread House Contest sponsored by Atlanta Public Museum, I consent to receiving email communications from the Museum regarding updates, changes, and/or media requests as they arise. Competitors can choose to no longer receive communications by contacting the Atlanta Public Museum and requesting their name/email be removed from the database.
8. I hereby grant the Atlanta Public Library & Museum (APL&M) to print or otherwise duplicate the picture or likeness of my entry for either internal or external release, this includes print, video or online publications, plus local and network television. I understand that the image of my entry becomes the property of the APL&M. Permission is also granted to the APL&M to transport my entry for publicity purposes while understanding that at no time does APL&M guarantee the safety or security of my entry and cannot be held responsible for any damages incurred to my entry on or off APL&M property. By participating, each Competitor agrees to be bound by all Rules and Regulations herein, which may be amended at any time as deemed necessary. APL&M reserves the right to refuse any entry deemed inappropriate for display in a public setting. And to disqualify any Competitor who fails to follow the Rules and Procedures contained in the Entry Documents provided. Lastly, any Competitor found to have falsified any entry information will be dismissed and disqualified from any future contests.

9. I agree to HOLD HARMLESS, RELEASE, DEFEND, AND INDEMNIFY APL&M, THE LIBRARY BOARD & OFFICERS, AND STAFF, each of their current or former predecessors, successors, each of their affiliated organizations and companies, their insurance companies, their respective agents, employees, representatives, assignees, officers, directors, members, partners, medical providers, and shareholders for ANY AND ALL LIABILITY and/or claims arising from injury to persons or damage to property arising from the incident, any RELEASED PARTY'S alleged or actual NEGLIGENCE OR GROSS NEGLIGENCE, BEACH OF any express or implied WARRANTY, breach of contract, or breach of any statutory or other duty of care, or mistake or errors in judgement of any kind. By signing this release, I agree that I am releasing any right to make a claim or file a lawsuit against APL&M. THE RELEASOR AGREES TO DEFEND AND INDEMNIFY each RELEASED PARTY for any and all claims and/or those of a third party arising from the incident.

I agree to all terms of The 2025 Official Route 66 Gingerbread House Contest and have fully read the Official Rules and Procedures

Any/All competitors submitted as a contributors have parent/guardian permission to participate in the 2025 competition.

Signature of Entrant/Team Captain: _____

Date: _____

Please return completed form to the Atlanta Public Museum by Saturday, June 7, 2025 @ 4 PM CST.

Print/Complete/Scan/Email to:

- atlantamuseum@yahoo.com
- Subject Line: Route 66 Gingerbread House Contest

Direct Mail:

- The Atlanta Public Library and Museum, ATTN: Route 66 Gingerbread Contest, PO Box 12, Atlanta, IL 61723

OFFICIAL COMPETITOR DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Due at time of structure submission, Saturday, June 21st or Sunday, June 22nd, 2025

To help the Judges fully understand and appreciate your entry, please provide a typed description and explanation of the entry. This Summary should give a clear understanding of your vision, process, materials and any special techniques you used to build your structure. This is also where you can share why you picked this Route 66 structure or idea and provide any backstory about it, i.e. you visited it when you were a child, it's one you'd like to visit, etc. The Description Summary **MUST** be submitted with your structure.

At the TOP of the PAGE, Left Side, please include ONLY:

- Your Entry Title
- Your Unique Identification Number (UIN)
- NOTE: It must not include any identifying factors of the individual or team

Description should not exceed 2 pages, Single-sided, 8.5" x 11", double-spaced, font size 11 pt – 12 pt sized. Calibri Font preferred.

Some suggested information to share:

- Why did you pick this design? Did it change as you were making it?
- Have you seen this Route 66 structure in person (if it's a landmark)?
- How many hours do you think you spent making your entry?
- What did you find most challenging about creating your entry?
- How much does your design weigh? Guesstimation is OK
- Fun, interesting facts about your build you want to share...