

Strawbery Banke's 2008 Candlelight Stroll

Gingerbread House Contest !

Take part in a sweet local tradition. The Gingerbread Contest at Strawbery Banke's Candlelight Stroll is always a favorite part of the event. Strawbery Banke will be decked in holiday splendor during the month of December, and your gingerbread creations will be on display during Candlelight Stroll evenings (Dec 6-7, 13-14, and 20-21) and during Holiday House Tours (weekdays Dec 8-31, 10:00 – 3:30).

Rules:

- **Eligibility:** The contest is open to all entrants in three categories:
 - **Adult** (open to individuals or groups 18 and over)
 - **Family** (children under 18 working with or without adults)
 - **Youth Group** (Scout, church, 4H, etc)
- **Entries must be registered by Friday, November 21.** To register, just send an email with your name, address, daytime and evening phone, email address, and category (family, youth group, or adult) to Michelle Moon at mmoon@strawberybanke.org .
- **Entries must be delivered to Strawbery Banke between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM on Thursday, December 4.**
- Entries must be built on a sturdy base no more than 2' x 2 (24" on a side). Please be sure base is durable and can be moved. Plywood, cutting boards, and cookie sheets make good bases. No cardboard.
- Electric lighting is permitted (no battery lighting). Please be sure power cord extends at least 4' from base in order to reach power supply.
- Entries must be made of edible materials, excluding base and any lighting.
- By entering the contest, you authorize Strawbery Banke to use images of your completed work in promotional materials.
- One prize will be awarded in each category. Judging is by open balloting during the six nights of Candlelight Stroll (Dec. 6-7, 13-14, and 20-21)
- Two complimentary passes to Candlelight Stroll are offered for each entry as a reward for participating. All entrants will receive a certificate.
- **Entries must be picked up on Monday, December 22 by 5 PM.** Any houses unclaimed after that day will be disposed of.

Helpful Hints:

Consider a unique theme for your house. Past favorites have depicted Plains Indians tipis, farms, houses from books or fairy tales, lighthouses, and local landmarks.

Some houses look beautiful with a little interior lighting. Think about incorporating small bulb fixtures or string lights. Do not use battery-powered lights; batteries cannot power the houses long enough for the display. There will be power available but you must note that you need power when registering your entry.

Be creative! Browse in the grocery store or candy shop for sweet inspiration. Look for unusual colors and shapes of candy, and don't rule out other foods such as cereals, mints, dried fruits, and cookies.

Too much trouble to bake from scratch? Make the project less fussy by purchasing a ready-made gingerbread house kit, easily found in craft stores, grocery stores, and party stores. No, it isn't cheating! Ready-made houses are simple, but you can put extra creativity into the decorating.

Check the library and the internet for some ideas and how-to tips. To get you started, here are some of our favorite web links:

Gingerbread Lane

<http://www.gingerbreadlane.com/>

A gingerbread Eiffel Tower, great tips, and information on preserving houses

Family Fun

http://familyfun.go.com/recipes/special/feature/famf199612_ffgingerbread/

Step-by-step instructions

Simply Recipes

http://www.elise.com/recipes/archives/004212how_to_make_a_gingerbread_house.php

Instructions and photos

Gingerbread History

<http://www.journalofantiques.com/hearthdec.htm>

Trivia and background on this old tradition!

For additional questions, please contact:

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