**CHEF’S TABLE CHARITIES**

**GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION 2018**

Rules and Procedures

The following Rules and Procedures have been set forth and established by Chef’s Table Charities for the purpose of the 2018 Gingerbread House Competition. Please retain these sheets for your records. For additional information, contact chefstablecharities@gmail.com

**ENTERING and QUALIFYING to ENTER**

To be eligible for the competition, a completed online entry form and paid donation, must be received prior to 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 1, 2018. Entries that are not pre-registered will not be accepted. Entry numbers will be assigned upon receipt of completed entry forms, and competitors will receive an email with entry number confirming their entry into the 2018 competition.

One (1) entry per entry form is permitted and individuals may submit only one entry in each category for which they are eligible to compete. All entries require a donation, other than the Pro Division, as their donation is their Gingerbread House that will be used as a Silent Auction item at the event.

The 2016 Gingerbread House Competition Entry Form must be signed by the individual entering the competition. If the individual is younger than the age of eighteen (18) by the date of the competition, a signature from a parent or legal guardian is required in conjunction with the minor’s signature.

Group/Team Entries are allowed for entry under the following guidelines:

• A group or team is defined as two or more individuals working on a single entry.

• Please complete one (1) entry form for the team that includes the team captain’s contact information.

• In the case of school groups, Scout troops, or businesses entering the competition, the classroom teacher, scout leader or designated business team lead should be listed as the team captain and provide his or her contact information.

• A separate typed list of each team member’s first and last names, along with ages, should be included with the team’s entry form in the designated comment box on the electronic form. An electronic acknowledgement and email address from a parent or legal guardian may be required for each team member under eighteen (18) years of age and will be sent to the team leader to handle.

• In the event a Team Entry places in the competition, the team captain will be the recipient of any prizes. Distribution or splitting of any prize or ribbon will be left to the team captain to determine.

• If individuals working on a single entry are of different ages and would be in different categories independently, enter these individuals in the appropriate category for the oldest individual in the group.

Chef’s Table Charities reserves the right to refuse any entry deemed inappropriate.

**CANCELLATION POLICY**

We understands that situations may cause competitors to withdraw from the competition. In the event you are no longer able to compete, please inform us at chefstablecharities@gmail.com We may need to cut off the number of entries and have a waiting list. While we will remove your name from the contestants, donations cannot be refunded.

**ENTRY CATEGORIES**

The following categories are open for entry into the 2018 Gingerbread House Competition.

• Pro Division - This is reserved for local chefs or restaurants in the Galveston Bay Area, Texas. Chef’s Tables Charities will identify, vett, and discuss rules, themes, and expectations directly with participants.

• Ameture Chef - Individuals thirteen (13) years of age and older entering as a single entrant. We ask you to use the honor system and do the work on your own. Someone from your household or a friend can assist you in the transport and bringing the entry into the venue, but only the entrant can do any finishing touches on the display table at the venue the day of competition.

• Kid Creators - Individuals twelve (12) years of age and under entering as a single entrant. We ask you to use the honor system and that only a parent/guardian supervise and mildly assist the entrant. One adult can assist in the transport and bringing the entry into the venue, but only the entrant and one adult can do any finishing touches on the display table at the venue the day of competition .

• Family/ Team/Business/Division- Includes multiple ages and people who have all contributed to the final piece. All names/ages must be included on the entry form. A maximum of 2 team members at a time are allowed to work on finishing touches on the display table at the venue the day of competition.

Entry Categories are subject to change based on participation. Number of entries will be limited by space. Chef’s Table Charities will announce a cut off for entries if space starts to become an issue.

**PLACING and PRIZES**

Chef’s Table Charities will award the following prizes:

Pro Division - This category will be judged under separate criteria. Best in Show will be determined by onsite judges and online votes. Onsite judging will make up 75% of the overall score and online voting will make up the other 25%. Online voting will be open both on the Chef’s Table Charities website and on Facebook Winner will receive bragging rights, promotion from sponsoring media partners, photography of their winning entry, and a trophy. All entries in this division are considered donations to be used as Silent Auction items at the event.

• 1st Prize for each category (other than the Pro Division) will receive TBD

 • 2nd Prize TBD

**DESIGN**

 Although the competition is titled ‘The 2018 Chef’s Table Charities Gingerbread House Competition’, entries are not limited to the structure of a house. Competitors are welcome and encouraged to uniquely design their entry for the 2018 competition, as long as the entry is in keeping with the competition Rules and Procedures.

**SIZE LIMITATIONS, IDENTIFICATION, and DESCRIPTION** (does not apply to Pro Division) Not to exceed 24 inches high, 24 inches wide, and 24 inches long. Entry must be placed on a board base. We suggest using ½” or ¾” plywood as a base for your entry. Entries combined with a base must not be larger than 24 inches high, 24 inches wide, and 24 inches long. Write your name, address, and entry number on the underside of your base. When you arrive with your entry, you can only place it on the table you have been assigned by the entry number you have been given. You will be given a card as where you can give a title to your gingerbread entry for display. Please DO NOT include your personal name or any team members names in the name/title of your gingerbread entry; doing so will disqualify you from the competition. If you are a local business, and you want your entry to reflect your business name or organization, then you will need that cleared on your submission form during the time of entry.

**MATERIALS and CONSTRUCTION**: Except for the base, entries must be constructed and composed of mostly edible materials. The main structure should be constructed of at least 50% gingerbread, sugar cookies, graham cracker, any other goodies to construct a house.structure, some of which should be exposed. Edible materials are not limited to candies and icings. Use of gum paste, fondant, pastillage, chocolate, modeling chocolate, royal icing, Isomalt, cast sugar, gelatin, and pressed sugar is encouraged. Due to the danger of working with hot sugar, techniques using poured hot sugar or isomalt are reserved for the adult categories only. Do not use anything on the entry that needs refrigeration. The use of battery-powered electrics and non-edible materials is allowed, but please make sure it is covered with goodies.. Any entry with the over use of non-edible components, other than candy wrappers, lollipop sticks, or small items to enhance the decoration, will be disqualified….so, Legos, felt, stickers...not a good idea. This will be up to the judge’s discretion. No artificial display materials, such as Styrofoam are to be used in the construction or decoration of the entry UNLESS they are used inside of the structure to provide support and must be covered completely.. Non-edible materials such as paint and/or ribbon are approved (and encouraged) to decorate the outer edge of your plywood base ONLY (not to exceed the length and/or width of the base). All entries must be solely constructed by the individual entering the competition. Youth and Child competitors may be supervised, for safety precautions, by a parent, legal guardian, or classroom teacher. However, all entry design, construction, and decoration must be done solely by the individual(s) entering the competition.

**JUDGING PROCESS and JUDGING CRITERIA**: Judging will be held the same day of the competition Sunday, December 16, 2016 starting at 2pm. We will open the door for check in at Noon and you will be allowed to set up and do touch ups until we call “time” at 1:45pm. Any entry not in place by 1:45pm will not be allowed any touch ups, but can be set on the assigned number until judging begins at 2pm. Chef’s Table Charities reserves the right to make exceptions.

Entries will be judged based on five criteria:

Overall Appearance and Appeal
Originality and Creativity
Difficulty
Consistency of Theme
Precision and Neatness

**ENTRY CHECK-IN and ENTRY PICK-UP**

Completed entries must be delivered to Stuttgarden, Texas City at the Mall of the Mainland December 16th between Noon and 1:45pm and judging will occur from 2pm to 4pm. Pro Division will be judged first, and will become part of the event silent auction. All other entries must remain on display until 6pm when the event wrapps up, and can be collected until 8pm that night.Houses not picked up will be discarded beginning at 9pm that evening. Silent Auction winners of the Pro Division Houses will be notified and winning auction items must be picked up and paid for before 9pm that evening. No exceptions.