

THE 2026 NATIONAL GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION™

OVERALL INFORMATION

PRE-ARRIVAL & ENTRY REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Times and procedures have been updated from prior years, please read carefully.

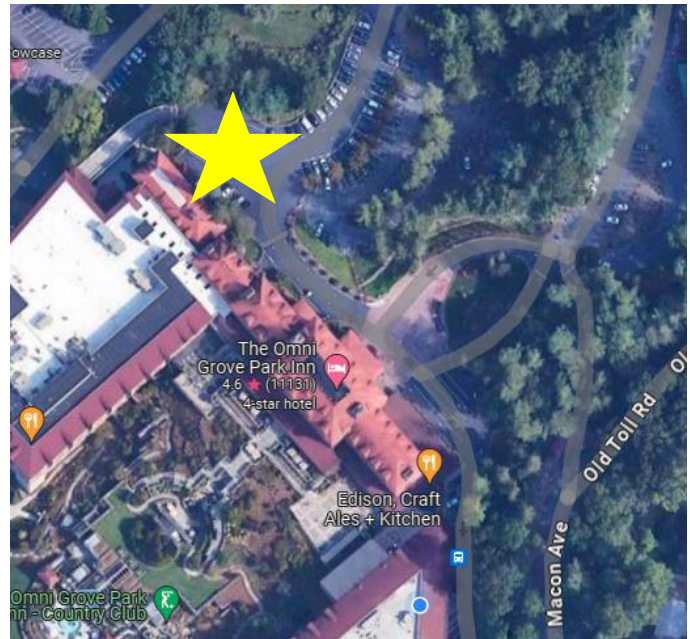
DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO THE OMNI GROVE PARK INN & SPA

The Omni Grove Park Inn & Spa | 290 Macon Avenue, Asheville NC 28804

Recommended property entrance:

- From Charlotte Street, turn left onto Edwin Place (street before Macon Avenue).
- Go through one traffic light.
- Turn right onto Country Club Road.
- Turn right onto Club View Road.
- Stay left on Club View Road.
- Go through the stop sign (Vanderbilt Parking Garage is on right). Turn right at the next stop sign; take next right up, towards the Inn.
- Continue up the hill to the Bus Parking Area.

*Map shows detail of arrival to the Bus Parking area



ENTRY REGISTRATION PROCESS

1. UNLOAD YOUR ENTRY:

WHERE: The Vanderbilt Wing entrance, located on Level 7 (ground level) of the Vanderbilt Wing.

- Vehicles will be allowed up to 10 minutes in the bus parking area to unload entries.
- If there are multiple people, please park your vehicle in one of the garages to allow more competitors to unload in front of the entrance.
- A small number of carts will be made available at this location for transporting gingerbread entries and are not permitted to be removed from the registration area.

2. REGISTRATION DESK: Here you will check in and receive your registration packet. See more details in the Vehicle Parking section.

3. FORM PROCESSING: Here you will submit your required printed Entry Description Summary and optional three to five supplemental photos for approval to be placed with your piece.

4. GINGERBREAD TRIAGE (Optional): This station is available for minor fixes before photography and final placement in the ballroom.

- Once your piece is on a table in the triage area, you must allow our staff to take the cart down for other competitors to use. We will have photography carts on hand to transport your piece while on the 8th floor.

5. CONTENT CAPTURE STATION: You and your entry will be photographed and filmed for media purposes, mandatory for all Competition entries.

6. ENTRY PLACEMENT: Place your piece, entry number card and Entry Description Summary and optional three to five supplemental photos at your staff-designated location.

COMPETITOR ROOM BLOCK RESERVATIONS

The Omni Grove Park Inn & Spa (OGPI) offers a discounted room rate to Competitors in The 2026 National Gingerbread House Competition™. Information on the discounted room rate and reservation policies for The Omni Grove Park Inn & Spa will be emailed with your assigned, unique entry number once a complete 2026 Competitor Entry Form has been processed.

AWARDS, PLACING & PRIZES

This section has been updated from prior years, please read carefully.

See detailed information on prizes below. Winners of prize checks are required to complete the appropriate tax forms prior to payment being issued. No outside catering or food is permitted in hotel public spaces and meeting areas for the duration of the Competition weekend.

ADULT CATEGORY

Grand Prize: \$7,500 prize check, a two-night Club Floor stay, two spa day passes, dinner for two and daily breakfast for two at OGPI in 2027, two nights of accommodations at any Omni Hotels & Resorts property in 2027 and the grand prize trophy.

2nd Place: \$5,000 prize check, a two-night Mountain View stay at OGPI in 2027 including daily breakfast for two, dinner for two, two Spa Day Passes, and one ribbon.

3rd Place: \$2,500 prize check, a one-night Mountain View stay at OGPI in 2027 including breakfast and dinner for two, and one ribbon.

TEEN CATEGORY

1st Place: \$2,000 prize check, two nights of accommodations at any Omni Hotels & Resorts property in 2027, dinner for four at EDISON, craft ales + kitchen, and a trophy. **Anyone ages 18 and under must be accompanied by a Parent or Guardian.*

2nd Place: \$1,500 prize check and one ribbon.

3rd Place: \$1,000 prize check and one ribbon.

YOUTH CATEGORY

1st Place: \$1,000 prize check, two nights of accommodations at any Omni Hotels & Resorts property in 2027, dinner for four at EDISON, craft ales + kitchen, and a trophy. **Anyone ages 18 and under must be accompanied by a Parent or Guardian.*

2nd Place: \$750 prize check and one ribbon.

3rd Place: \$500 prize check and one ribbon.

CHILD CATEGORY

1st Place: \$500 prize check, two nights of accommodations at any Omni Hotels & Resorts property in 2027, dinner for four at EDISON craft ales + kitchen, and a trophy. **Anyone ages 18 and under must be accompanied by a Parent or Guardian.*

2nd Place: \$350 prize check and one ribbon.

3rd Place: \$250 prize check and one ribbon.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

The award for the entry that best represents a community or cultural heritage is \$150 and one ribbon.

RISING STAR AWARD

The award for a first-year Competitor who emulates a rising star in the National Gingerbread House Competition is \$150 and one ribbon.

FURTHEST TRAVELED AWARD

The award for the Competitor who traveled the furthest distance with their entry is \$1,000 and one ribbon.

Based on mileage; may be asked to provide valid proof of address. Payment will be issued in U.S. currency only; copy of valid tax ID form required. May be asked to provide U.S. mailing address.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE: BEST IN SHOW AWARD

Registered Competitors ONLY can participate in voting for one winner across all four categories. One entry grants you one vote, team captains will vote on behalf of their team. Competitors will present their unique voting ticket in exchange for a valid voting card. All other registered competitors, family and friends must remain seated while voting is in progress. The recipient of this award will receive \$2,000 and one ribbon.

CHEF NICHOLAS LODGE AWARDS

Applicable only to Teen, Youth and Child entries to highlight the creative and emerging talent.

The judging panel will recognize one entry per award below across the Teen, Youth and Child categories. Each recipient will receive one \$150 prize check and a ribbon, one per entry.

- Best Use of Color
- Best Use of Sprinkles
- Longest Standing Competitor
- Most Unique Ingredient
- Pop Culture Star
- Most Innovative Structure

THE 2026 NATIONAL GINGERBREAD HOUSE DISPLAY

PUBLIC VIEWING

Tuesday, November 17, 2026 – Sunday, January 3, 2027

- Sundays: After 6pm
- Monday – Thursday: Anytime during regular resort hours
- Friday & Saturday: reserved for registered resort guests and those with confirmed dining reservations.
- Closed to the Public: Holidays and the following dates: November 26, December 6, 23, 24, 25, 26, 30, 31 and January 1.

Fridays and Saturdays are reserved exclusively for guests staying overnight at the resort and those that have confirmed resort dining reservations. If guests arrive during a high occupancy time, they may be asked to leave and return at an alternate time. Please note that only registered resort pets will be permitted. Before travelling to the property, visit our Facebook page to verify display access is open for public viewing.

VEHICLE PARKING

Complimentary parking validation stickers are distributed on site as part of the registration packet. Parking stickers permit one standard vehicle up to three hours of complimentary self-parking during the designated public viewing dates. Standard vehicle parking is subject to availability and is not guaranteed. See details below.

- If you are a drive-on guest over the Competition weekend, you will find three (3) parking validation stickers with unique barcodes that are valid only: 1) Registration Day: Saturday, November 14th or Sunday, November 15th 2) Awards: Monday, November 16th 3) Valid for a future date to view the display.
- If you are an in-house guest over Competition weekend, you will only find one (1) parking validation sticker with a unique barcode to be used for a future date to view the display as your parking on Saturday November 14th, Sunday November 15th and Monday November 16th will be complimentary with your room reservation.
- Validation stickers will not be re-issued, and no extras will be distributed, no exceptions.

OVERSIZED VEHICLE PARKING

Please visit <https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/asheville-grove-park/things-to-do/gingerbread> to complete the **2026 Holiday Season Oversized Vehicle Parking Request Form for Viewing Only**. Reservation requests will be accepted as of August 1, 2026.

For those interested in Group Dining Reservations as part of their visit, please visit <https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/asheville-grove-park/things-to-do/gingerbread> to complete the **2026 Holiday Season Oversized Vehicle Parking Request Form for Group Dining Reservations**. Reservation requests will be accepted as of August 1, 2026.

POST-DISPLAY ENTRY PICKUP

For competitors that wish to keep their gingerbread entry after the Competition display has ended; entries must be picked up between the hours of 10am and 6pm on Monday, January 4, 2027, or Tuesday, January 5, 2027. Entries remaining will be discarded beginning at 7pm on Tuesday, January 5, 2027. Additional pickup dates and times may be offered pending inclement weather in the Asheville area.