After going virtual in 2020, the resort is welcoming back competitors in-person in 2021 and will have a public Gingerbread display as in years past. It is our mission to ensure that the Competition’s legacy built on design, innovation and tradition continues safely for future generations.

The Competition’s esteemed panel of judges, including Chef Nicholas Lodge and Chef Carla Hall, will announce a winner on November 22nd at the Resort.

Like last year, the Competition will conduct the first round of judging virtually. This will enable documentation of the creation process, enhance the first round of the judging experience, and ensure the competition will continue safely, even if unforeseen circumstances were to arise. The first round is meant to give the judges a visual idea of the creation by showcasing a framework and different portions of the piece that highlight the story behind it. Your piece does NOT have to be final at this stage. Changes can be made up until the day of registration (November 21st).

The second round of judging will be done in-person at the hotel in the Grand Ballroom as in years past. The Omni Grove Park Inn is thrilled to once again display all Gingerbread entries at the Resort for public viewing to celebrate the hard work and dedication that goes into these edible works of art. All Gingerbread entries will be reviewed in-person during the second round to ensure the integrity of the Gingerbread creation physically meets the criteria.

For those who may not travel this season, the hotel will continue, “The 12 Days of Gingerbread” by releasing one of the Top 12 finalists, per day, on the hotel’s Facebook (@omnigroveparkinn) and Instagram (@omnigrovepark) channels from December 1 - 12, 2021 to spark Ginger-love for all during the happiest season of the year! This provides an in-person and virtual way for all to enjoy.

**JUDGING PROCEDURE**

**ROUND 1**

This round of judging will be conducted virtually. To make this possible, entry requirements include competitor-created Entry Photo + Video Content with new and simplified video/photo requirements for 2021, taking into consideration Competitor feedback. In this round, judges will be looking for the originality, creativity, and difficulty of the piece, versus the Overall Appearance. This can be shown by sharing stages of the creation process, even if the piece is not final. Specifically, showcasing the different components of the work, sharing a framework if applicable & a visual representation of what the finished product will look like (sketch(es), inspirational imagery, blueprint, etc.), so judges have a clear understanding of the story behind the piece – even if your final product is not yet completed. Updates can still be made after Round 1 as all entries will be reviewed again in Round 2 when criteria of the Competition will be judged as a whole.
ROUND 2
This round of judging will commence as past years of the Competition. All Gingerbread entries will be judged in-person at The Omni Grove Park Inn. After this round of judging, the Top 40 finalists will be selected, which is the Top 10 finalists from each age category.

WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT
Like years past, we will celebrate all competitors with the in-person Awards Ceremony, as well as continue “The 12 Days of Gingerbread” social media tradition started in 2020. The 2021 Grand Prize Winner will be placed on display for the year following the Awards Ceremony.

12 DAYS OF GINGERBREAD
This series will showcase one Top 3 Winner per day, giving fans of the competition and the hotel a chance to get in on the fun virtually. Winners will be released on Instagram (@omnigrovepark) and Facebook (@omnigroveparkinn), December 1-12, with the 12th day announcing the Grand Prize Winner.

NEW ENTRY PROCESS
To be eligible to compete, the Entry Form must be submitted by 5pm ET on November 8, 2021. *Entrant will receive a confirmation email providing: Entry Number and link to a competitor-specific Dropbox folder where additional forms and content is to be submitted. Entrant can expect to receive this email prior to the Entry Photo + Video Content and Entry Description Summary deadline (November 15, 2021).


Step 3  The Entry Photo + Video Content and Entry Description Summary must all be submitted by 5 pm ET on November 15, 2021, via OGPI provided, competitor-specific Dropbox folder. Your piece does NOT have to be final at this stage. Changes can be made up until the day of registration (November 21st). Digital Entry Content + review timelines determined the 2021 entry deadline. Required: Entry Description Form and Entry Photo + Video Content.

OFFICIAL RULES AND PROCEDURES
Please read all information fully and carefully. Requirements have been significantly updated. The following rules and procedures have been set forth and established by The Omni Grove Park Inn (henceforth referred to as OGPI) for the purpose of The 2021 National Gingerbread House Competition™.

The deadline to submit the Competitor Entry Form is November 8, 2021 at 5pm ET. OGPI reserves the right to refuse any entry deemed inappropriate. For additional questions, please contact gpi.events@omnihotels.com.

ENTRY CATEGORY GUIDELINES

INDIVIDUAL ENTRY
To be eligible for the Competition, the Competitor Entry Form must be received by 5pm ET on November 8, 2021. Additionally, the Entry Photo + Video Content and Entry Description Summary form must all be received by 5pm ET on November 15, 2021. Your piece does NOT have to be final at this stage. Changes can be made up until the day of registration (November 21st).

The registered competitor will receive all correspondence, notifications, and updates regarding The National Gingerbread House Competition™ via email. If the individual entering is under 18 years of age by the date of the competition entry, consent from a parent or legal guardian is required in addition to disclosing the minor’s date of birth. Each participant may only submit one entry. Following receipt of the Competitor Entry Form, entrant will receive a confirmation email providing: Entry Number and link to a competitor-specific Dropbox folder where additional forms and content is to be submitted. Entrant is required to download the Digital Gingerbread Tool Kit and Entry Description Summary form on The Omni Grove Park Inn website.

TEAM ENTRY
To be eligible for the Competition, the Competitor Entry Form must be received by 5pm ET on November 8, 2021. Additionally, the Entry Photo + Video Content and Entry Description Summary form must all be received by 5pm ET on November 15, 2021. Your piece does NOT have to be final at this stage. Changes can be made up until the day of registration (November 21st).
Each team entry must designate a Team Captain. The Team Captain will receive all correspondence, notifications, and updates on behalf of the team regarding entry in The National Gingerbread House Competition™ via email. Teams are to submit only one Competitor Entry Form, including only the Team Captain’s contact information. If entering as a school group, the classroom teacher should be listed as the Team Captain and provide their contact information.

If individuals working on a team entry are of varied ages, the team must enter in the appropriate category for the oldest individual in the group. Individuals 18 years of age but still enrolled in high school may compete in the Teen Category as a member of a team entry. If the individual(s) entering is under 18 years of age by the date of the competition, consent from a parent/legal guardian(s) is required in addition to disclosing the minor’s date of birth. Each participant may only submit one entry. In the event a team entry wins a prize, the Team Captain will be the recipient of any prizes. Distribution of ribbon and splitting of any prize will be left to the team captain to determine. We are not able to supply ribbons for each participant. Following receipt of the Competitor Entry Form, the Team Captain will receive a confirmation email providing: Entry Number and link to a competitor-specific Dropbox folder where additional forms and content is to be submitted. Team Captain is required to download the Digital Gingerbread Tool Kit and Entry Description Summary form on The Omni Grove Park Inn website.

ENTRY CATEGORIES
The following categories are available for entry into The 2021 National Gingerbread House Competition™:
- Adult Category - Individuals 18 years of age and older entering as a single entrant or team.
- Teen Category - Individuals between 13 and 17 years of age entering as a single entrant or team.
- Youth Category - Individuals between 9 and 12 years of age entering as a single entrant or team.
- Child Category - Individuals between 5 and 8 years of age entering as a single entrant or team.

ENTRY CRITERIA

JUDGING
All entries will be judged on five criteria:

1) Overall Appearance, 2) Originality and Creativity, 3) Difficulty, 4) Precision and 5) Consistency of Theme.

There is no overall theme for the competition. Although OGPI’s holiday competition is titled “The National 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 2021 Competition. Theme should be competitor’s own and consistent throughout the entry.

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 OGPI staff or affiliates. In the event of a tie, the competition Call Judge will be asked to break the tie.

SIZE LIMITATIONS
Entry must be placed on a board base. Entries combined with a base must not be larger than 24 inches high, 24 inches wide, and 24 inches long. ½” or ¾” plywood as a base for your entry is recommended. Use of pegs/risers/feet on the bottom of the base is preferred but not required. If you wish to install pegs/risers/feet on the underside of your base, they are considered as part of the base and must not cause the entry’s overall height to exceed 24 inches. Weight is not to exceed 50 pounds.

MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION
Requirements have been updated from prior years, please read carefully.

Everything above the base of your entry must be composed completely of edible materials. Competitors are permitted to use up to 40% mechanically produced components in their entry. Examples include: machine designed, 3D printed and laser cut components. 60% of each entry must be handcrafted. The main structure of your entry must be constructed of at least 75% gingerbread, 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. Use of "Disco Dust", "Rainbow Dust" or "Hologram Powder" is permitted.
Due to the danger of working with hot sugar, techniques using poured hot sugar or isomalt are reserved for the teen and adult categories only. This includes 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 materials, such as Styrofoam, interior lighting or other electronic components are to be used in the construction or decoration of the entry. Candies must be unwrapped and free of any non-edible materials, for example: lollipop sticks. Non-edible materials such as paint and/or ribbon are approved and encouraged to decorate the outer edge of your plywood base only. Decorations must not cause the entry to exceed the required size limitations.

Entries must be solely constructed by the individual(s) entering the competition. Teen, Youth and Child competitors may be supervised, for safety precautions, by a parent, legal guardian, or classroom teacher. Example: assistance with operating a stove top or oven.

ENTRY IDENTIFICATION
Each entry must be clearly labeled with its OGPI assigned, unique entry number. Number must be visible from a fully seated position for hotel reference and identification. If you do not arrive with your entry number clearly showing, you will be required to add it at entry registration. Examples of successful labeling: small decorative plaques, signposts, banners. If not incorporated into the piece elsewhere, the recommended location is the outer edge of the base.

REQUIRED: ENTRY PHOTO + VIDEO CONTENT
All listed are requirements of entry. This section has been simplified. Please read carefully.

1) ANONYMOUS ENTRY VIDEO
This competitor-generated video should really wow the judges by showing off your entry and the story behind it. Highlight different components of the work, sharing a framework if applicable & a visual representation of what the finished product will look like (sketch(es), inspirational imagery, blueprint, etc.) so judges have a clear understanding of the story behind the piece – even if your final product is not yet completed. Include a full 360 view around the exterior, if built. Get up close and feature details: Textures, clean lines, difficult techniques. If your structure has an interior and it’s ready, give us an inside "tour" through doors and windows.

- Minimum length 120 seconds / 2 minutes
- Maximum length 180 seconds / 3 minutes
- Free of inappropriate language, gestures, images, sounds
- Free of identifying factors: names, faces, school or business logos
- No audio permitted

See the Digital Gingerbread Tool Kit for video creation guidelines and tips.

2) ANONYMOUS ENTRY PHOTOS
High resolution quality preferred

- (3-5) Competitor-generated still photographs
- Demonstrating building processes, materials and technique.
- Child/Youth category entrants are encouraged to show competitor executing difficult components for proof of creation.
- Free of identifying factors: names, faces, school or business logos.

Entry Photo + Video Content submitted through OGPI provided link to a competitor-specific Dropbox folder.

REQUIRED: ENTRY DESCRIPTION SUMMARY
Requirements have been updated from prior years, please read carefully.

The purpose of this summary is to better inform the judges of your vision, theme, backstory, process, technique and material usage that may not be obvious from viewing your video and photo content.

Summary to be completed in official, fillable form and submitted to entry assigned Dropbox link by deadline. Please keep summary description anonymous and free from identifying factors.
Description not to exceed two, typed pages Front: Calibri, Size: 12pt.

Additional Suggested Prompts:

- What makes Gingerbread special to you?
- What was your experience like creating your entry this year?
- Have you pioneered any new techniques?
- Do you create your own molds?
- Any new ingredients you’ve used?

ENTRY REGISTRATION
Registration times and procedures have been updated from prior years, please read carefully.
It is mandatory to stay with your entry until final placement in the ballroom.

REGISTRATION DAY - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2021
*It is mandatory to stay with your entry until final placement in the ballroom.

Child and Youth Division Registration | 8am-12pm
Registration Closed | 12-2pm | No registrants will be accepted at this time
Teen and Adult Division Registration | 2pm-6pm
Competitor Meet and Greet Party | 6-7:30pm | Details to be announced

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO THE OMNI GROVE PARK INN
The Omni Grove Park Inn | 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 stop sign (Vanderbilt Parking Garage is on right);
Turn right at 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** at the resort’s bus parking area in front of 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. **You will not be permitted to register your entry without moving your vehicle to an approved parking area.**
   - A small number of carts will be made available at this location for transporting gingerbread entries and are not permitted to be removed from this area. Violators may be disqualified from the competition. If you have a small hand cart, you are encouraged to bring it to minimize wait time.
   - Prior to judging, competitor entries are not to be handled by any member of the resort staff. Please be certain that any designee(s) delivering an entry is capable of moving the piece without OGPI staff assistance.

2. **REGISTRATION DESK** is located on Level 7 (ground level) of the Vanderbilt Wing, just inside the sliding glass doors. Here you will check-in, receive your welcome materials and competitor button(s). Once approved, you will take this packet and place it at your entry location in the ballroom. Remain on Level 7 until a cart becomes available for transport to Level 8.

3. **OPTIONAL: GINGERBREAD TRIAGE** is located on Level 8 (one level up from Registration), to the left once you have exited the elevator. This station is available for minor fixes before photography and final placement in the ballroom. Competitors are not permitted to hold OGPI carts in this area; those fixing entries must utilize the provided worktables.

4. **CONTENT CAPTURE STATION** is located on Level 8 (one level up from Registration). You and your entry will be photographed and filmed for media purposes, mandatory for all competition entries. *This year, Top 3 finalists from each category must be available on property Tuesday, November 23, 2021 for additional content needs.

5. **ENTRY PLACEMENT** in the Grand Ballroom (Level 8) is the final step. We ask that all competitors exit the Ballroom promptly after placing entry packet at the staff designated space. You are not permitted to view the other entries at this time in order to keep the registration process moving. Entries can be viewed after the Awards Ceremony on Monday, November 22, 2021.

COMPETITOR ROOM BLOCK RESERVATIONS
OGPI offers a discounted room rate to competitors in The 2021 National Gingerbread House Competition™. Information on the discounted room rate and reservation policies for The Omni Grove Park Inn will be emailed with your assigned, unique entry number once a complete 2021 entry form has been processed.

PLACING + PRIZES
OGPI will award the title of Grand Prize to one entry from the selected Adult Top Ten. One ribbon per entry will be awarded to each Top Ten winners of the Adult, Teen, Youth and Child categories. Winners of prize checks are required to complete the appropriate tax forms prior to payment being issued. Prize checks will be made out to the individual winner or designated Team Captain and mailed to the address that is provided on the tax form.

FURTHEST TRAVELED
The award for the competitor who traveled the furthest distance with their entry is $1,000 and one ribbon. Based on mileage within continental United States and Canada; may be asked to provide valid proof of address.

ADULT CATEGORY
Grand Prize: $5,000 prize check, a two-night Club Floor stay at OGPI in 2022, a two-night stay at any Omni Hotels & Resorts property, two spa day passes, dinner for two, daily breakfast for two, the grand prize ribbon, and a Prize Package (valued at $750) for one person awarded as the grand prize winner or one member of the grand prize-winning team which includes a three-day class at the Nicholas Lodge School in Atlanta, GA - plus, Nicholas Lodge brand product.
2nd Place: $2,500 prize check, a two-night Mountain View stay at OGPI in 2022 including daily breakfast for two, dinner for two, two Spa Day Passes, and one ribbon.
3rd Place: $1,200 prize check, a one-night Mountain View stay at OGPI in 2022 including breakfast and dinner for two, and one ribbon.
TEEN CATEGORY
1st Place: $750 Prize check, a two-night stay at any Omni Hotels & Resorts property*, dinner for four at EDISON craft kitchen + ales in 2022, and a ribbon. *Anyone ages 18 and under must be accompanied by a Parent or Guardian.
2nd Place: $500 prize check and one ribbon.
3rd Place: $250 prize check and one ribbon.

YOUTH CATEGORY
1st Place: $300 prize check, a two-night stay at any Omni Hotels & Resorts property*, dinner for four at EDISON craft kitchen + ales in 2022, and one ribbon. *Anyone ages 18 and under must be accompanied by a Parent or Guardian.
2nd Place: $200 prize check and one ribbon.
3rd Place: $100 prize check and one ribbon.

CHILD CATEGORY
1st Place: $100 prize check, a two-night stay at any Omni Hotels & Resorts property*, dinner for four at EDISON craft kitchen + ales in 2022, and one ribbon. *Anyone ages 18 and under must be accompanied by a Parent or Guardian.
2nd Place: $75 prize check and one ribbon.
3rd Place: $50 prize check and one ribbon.

THE 2021 NATIONAL GINGERBREAD HOUSE DISPLAY

PUBLIC VIEWING
The official 2021 Gingerbread Display begins Sunday, November 28, 2021 at 3pm and will continue through Sunday, January 2, 2022.

The Omni Grove Park Inn invites guests that are not staying overnight at the Resort to view the display after 3:00 pm on Sundays or anytime Monday through Thursday, based on parking availability and excluding holidays and the following dates: December 23, 24, 30, 31 and January 1. Public viewing on December 26, 2021 and January 2, 2022 will open at 3pm.

Fridays and Saturdays are reserved exclusively for guests staying overnight at the Resort and those that have confirmed resort dining reservations. Event parking is based on availability and is subject to occupancy levels. If guests arrive during a high occupancy time, they may be asked to leave and return at an alternate time.

VEHICLE PARKING
Competitor parking vouchers are distributed on site as part of the registration packet. Vouchers permit one standard vehicle, up to three hours of complimentary self-parking during the designated public viewing dates. Vouchers must be presented to the Guest Services desk for validation prior to exiting the garage/parking lot. Standard vehicle parking is subject to availability and is not guaranteed.

OVERSIZED VEHICLE PARKING
Due to limited oversized vehicle parking space, groups visiting the hotel with an oversized vehicle just to view the Gingerbread Display must make advanced reservations with the Special Events department to arrange special parking and may be eligible to reserve parking on the following dates only: November 29, 30, December 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 27, 28, 29. Competitor parking vouchers cannot be applied to oversized vehicle parking. This applies to buses, vans or any non-standard size vehicle that does not properly fit in a traditional parking space.

Please visit https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/asheville-grove-park/things-to-do/gingerbread/national-gingerbread-competition to complete the 2021 Holiday Season Oversized Vehicle Parking Request Form for Viewing Only. Submit completed forms in order to be placed on the request waiting list. Submission of this form does not guarantee a reservation. An Omni Grove Park Inn issued parking pass serves as confirmation of your reservation. Confirmations will begin in September.

For those interested in Group Dining Reservations as part of their visit, please complete the 2021 Holiday Season Oversized Vehicle Parking Request Form for Group Dining Reservations. Reservation requests will start being accepted as of July 28, 2021. Reservations made based on availability.

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 9am and 5pm on Monday, January 3 or Tuesday, January 4, 2021. Entries remaining will be discarded beginning at 6pm on Tuesday, January 4.
COMPETITOR ENTRY FORM

REQUIRED FOR ALL ENTRIES | DEADLINE: November 8, 2021

All fields are mandatory

Entry Classification (check one): ☐ Individual Entry ☐ Team Entry

Entry Category (check one): ☐ Adult (18 and older) ☐ Teen (13-17) ☐ Youth (9-12) ☐ Child (5-8)

Date of birth if under 18 years of age: _____ / _____ / ____

Team Name (Team Entries Only). May not exceed 30 characters including spaces:

____________________________________

Entry Title. May not exceed 30 characters including spaces:

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Complete as an Individual Competitor or Team Captain

First: ___________________________________ Middle: ____________________ Last: ___________________________________

Street Address: ________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________________________ State: __________________ Zip Code: __________

Phone: _____________________________ Email Address: __________________________

Distance traveled to The Omni Grove Park Inn, 290 Macon Ave, Asheville, NC 28806: ____________ Miles

Have you previously been a competitor in The National Gingerbread House Competition™? If yes, how many years?

________________________________________________________________________

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. I must submit my Competitor Entry Form in digital form, email or direct mail no later than 5pm ET on Monday, November 8, 2021.

2. I must submit my Entry Photo + Video Content and Entry Description Summary via OGPI provided, competitor-specific Dropbox folder no later than 5pm ET on Monday, November 15, 2021.

3. I must deliver my completed entry to OGPI on Sunday, November 21, 2021, at the time assigned to my division.

4. I acknowledge that if selected as a Top 3 finalist from my category, I must be available on property Tuesday, November 23, 2021 for additional content needs.

5. I acknowledge that my entry will remain on display during the OGPI holiday season through Sunday, January 2, 2022. My entry may not be picked up prior to January 3, 2022.

6. I must pick up my entry between the hours of 9am and 5pm on Monday, January 3 or Tuesday, January 4, 2022. Entries remaining will be discarded beginning at 6pm on Tuesday, January 4.

7. I hereby grant permission to GPI Resort Holdings, LLC, by its agent Omni Hotels Management Corporation (collectively, “The Omni Grove Park Inn” or “OGPI”) 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 OGPI. Permission is also granted to OGPI to transport my entry for publicity purposes while understanding that at no time does OGPI guarantee the safety or security of my entry and cannot be held responsible for any damages incurred to my entry on or off the resort’s property. By participating, each competitor agrees to be bound by all Rules and Procedures herein, which may be amended from time to time. OGPI reserves the right to refuse entries that are deemed inappropriate for display at the hotel, to disqualify any competitor who fails to follow the Rules and Procedures contained herein and/or to disqualify any competitor who falsifies any entry form information.

8. I agree to HOLD HARMLESS, RELEASE, DEFEND, AND INDEMNIFY, GPI RESORT HOLDINGS, LLC, BY ITS AGENT OMNI HOTELS MANAGEMENT CORPORATION, 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 (each a “RELEASED PARTY”) 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, BREACH OF any express or implied WARRANTY, breach of contract, or breach of any statutory or other duty of care, or mistakes or errors in judgment of any kind. By signing this release, I agree that I am releasing any right to make a claim or file a lawsuit against OGPI. 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 2021 National Gingerbread House Competition™ and have fully read the Official 2021 Rules and Procedures.

☐ Any/all competitors submitted as a contributors have parent/guardian permission to participate in the 2021 competition.

Signature of Entrant / Team Captain: ___________________________________________ Date: __________________________

Please return form to the Special Events Team through one of these channels:

Fill out Digital Form Here | Scan + Email: gpi.events@omnihotels.com | Direct mail: The Omni Grove Park Inn, 290 Macon Avenue, Asheville, NC 28804, Attn: Special Events