

# On Your Marks, Get Set... Build!

## An Invitation to The Inaugural Gingerbread Showstopper Challenge



Good day, fellow colleagues, and aspiring bakers!

The crisp autumn air has faded, the twinkle of festive lights is upon us, and the time has come to step into our figurative tent for a true test of engineering and artistry. This year, we are proud to announce our first annual **Gingerbread Showstopper Challenge**!

### The Brief: The Signature Structure:

For this seasonal bake, we are asking you to create a magnificent, show-stopping gingerbread house. The pressure of the tent is palpable, but fear not, we are looking for creativity, spirit, and, of course, a solid construction.

The judges will be looking for a cohesive concept, precision in your piping, and overall structural integrity.

### The Technical Requirements:

To ensure fair play across the office, we have provided generous allowances for your foundational materials:

1. **The Base:** Your gingerbread house may be **entirely homemade** (a true feat of baking!), built from a **pre-packaged kit** (for the busy professionals among us), or cleverly constructed using **graham crackers** as the core structure. All methods are equally welcome!
2. **The Landscape:** Your creation can, and should, include a magnificent display. Feel free to build rolling hills of icing, a garden of gumdrops, a pretzel fence, or marzipan figures. We encourage a truly detailed scene! The scene must be appropriate for a university setting: no offensive imagery or themes that may make students, families, and guests feel unsafe or uncomfortable.
3. **The Cornerstone:** However grand your landscape, please ensure that **one clearly identifiable structure** serves as your primary “gingerbread house.” This will be the focus of the judges’ inspection.



### Judging Day & The Prize

Once submitted, our panel of judges will inspect your creations, looking for that perfect blend of artistry and ambition.

#### The Official Judging Criteria:

- **Aesthetic Appeal (The Showstopper):** Is it a true marvel? Judges will evaluate the overall visual impact, imagination, and festive themes.
- **Technical Skill (The Signature):** The precision of your decorating, neatness of the icing work, and attention to detail in the finishing touches.
- **Structural Integrity (The Technical):** Does the house stand proud? A sound construction that is stable and upright.

The winner will be crowned this year’s **Star Baker** and awarded the coveted prize (and the eternal glory of a metaphorical Hollywood Handshake!).



**Challenge Details:**

- To participate, please email [stratton@kutztown.edu](mailto:stratton@kutztown.edu) with name of the office, building and room number as well as the name of the point of contact by Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Gingerbread showstopper must be complete by Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.
- A photo of the completed showstopper should be sent to [stratton@kutztown.edu](mailto:stratton@kutztown.edu) by EOD Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Photos will be posted on social media and may be used if not all the judges can make it to all the offices.
- Judges will be around to judge the gingerbread showstoppers December 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> Winners will be announced Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Let the decorating commence! And remember: Keep stirring, and if in doubt, add more glitter.**

**Good luck, bakers!**

