

**2012 Central Ohio Home & Garden Show
Amateur Cake Decorating Competition
Official Contest Rules and Entry Information**

Five (5) finalists will be chosen from all received entries to participate in the live event on Sunday, Feb. 26, at 2 p.m. at the Central Ohio Home & Garden Show. Two (2) winners will be chosen in the final competition and be given a cash prize:

First place: \$500 cash
Runner-up: \$250 cash

HOW TO ENTER:

Entrants will submit **one** high-quality color photo of any previously decorated cake to: cakes@dispatch.com

Or by mail to:

Central Ohio Home & Garden Show Amateur Cake Decorating Competition
Attn: Christy Muhoberac
The Columbus Dispatch
34 S. Third St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Image should be 300 dpi .jpgs or prints of at least 4" X 6". Include your name, mailing address, e-mail address, daytime phone number and date of birth. Entrants must be at least 18 years of age. Entries missing any of the information will not be considered. One entry per person. Multiple entries are terms for disqualification. Prior participants are not eligible to compete.

All photo entries must be received by **noon on Wednesday, January 18, 2012**. Late entries will not be eligible. The five contestants for the live Amateur Cake Decorating Competition will be chosen from these entries and notified by e-mail or phone on Monday, January 23, 2012.

Entrants must be Amateurs defined as:

1. May not be employed in or accept money for working in the food or catering industry, including restaurants, bakeries, cupcake, cookie and cake shops.
2. May not have their cake decorating work on display in a commercial bakery or cake shop.
3. May not be incorporated as or operating as a commercial bakery.

EVENT DETAILS:

1. The Amateur Cake Decorating Competition is held and judged before a live audience from 2-3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 26, at the Central Ohio Home & Garden Show (in the Bricker Multi-Purpose Building at the Ohio Expo Center). Finalists must be able to participate in the live event to be eligible for prizes. Contestants may begin setting up at 1 p.m. The live Central Ohio Home & Garden Show Amateur Cake Decorating Competition begins at 2 p.m. and judging begins at 3 p.m. Finalists must be set up and ready to decorate by 2 p.m., no exceptions.
2. It is the sole responsibility of the contestant to coordinate arrangements for the contest entry. Cakes will be judged on: artistic expression related to theme, originality, technique, eye appeal and taste.
3. Judges may ask questions. Contestants must be able to explain their design and assembly and answer questions about cake decorating.

ENTRY GUIDELINES:

1. The entry cake must be the sole work of the entrant and may not have been submitted to another regionally or nationally publicized competition.
2. One entry per person.
3. The Central Ohio Home & Garden Show and The Dispatch Printing Company reserve the right at their sole discretion to disqualify any individual who tampers with the entry process or otherwise violates the rules.
4. The Dispatch Printing Company and affiliated companies and/or sponsors of the Central Ohio Home & Garden Show are not responsible for a person's inability to complete the required entry whether due to equipment malfunction or other difficulties and are not responsible for lost entries. All entries submitted become the property of The Dispatch Printing Company and will not be returned.
5. Employees of The Dispatch Printing Company, their advertising agencies, affiliated companies and sponsors, and employees of sponsors of the Central Ohio Home & Garden Show and the immediate family members of the aforementioned groups are not eligible.
6. By submitting an entry, contestants agree to be bound by the Competition Rules and agree that the sponsoring companies shall have the right; free of charge, to publish and broadcast by any means the names and photographs of the winners and the winning cakes for news and promotional purposes.
7. Prize winners are responsible for any federal, state, and local taxes as well as any additional expenses incurred with competition or use of the prize, including transportation, gasoline, parking, food, and/or ancillary expenses.

8. All decisions of all judging panels are final. Sponsors reserve the final judgment on all matters pertaining to this competition including the right to change or modify the rules, discontinue or extend the competition without prior notice.

COMPETITION RULES:

1. The theme for the Central Ohio Home & Garden Show Amateur Cake Decorating Competition is "Happy Birthday, Columbus!" and is open to artistic interpretation.
2. In both the submitted photo entry and final competition, the cake decorating idea must be the contestant's own. It can be the contestant's interpretation of an idea seen elsewhere.
3. The Central Ohio Home & Garden Show will provide all finalists with a 6-foot work table, chair, water access, and electricity upon request. Contestants are to bring their own decorating tools, equipment and other supplies needed. Be sure to include a small bucket (water available), mixer if needed, cleaning clothes, and aprons. (I moved this bullet from the end of the list to this position)
4. Each contestant will be provided with one hour for set up. Assistance during set up is permitted, but no assistants/assistance is allowed during the competition.
5. **All contestants are required to bring to the Ohio Expo Center an edible iced sheet cake that serves a minimum 40 people. Failure to bring sheet cake will result in disqualification.**
6. Cake can be any shape and any number of layers and flavor. There is no height limit.
7. No cream fillings, i.e. jelly, pudding, etc.
8. Icing must be butter cream or fondant. The cake may have both crumb and final coats applied before arriving at the Ohio Expo Center. Contestants must add the border to at least one layer at the competition. Other layers may be done before the competition.
9. Bring icing mixed, colored, and ready to use. Decorating bags may be filled ahead of time if desired.
10. Contestants must supply their own presentation board or foundation for their cake, not to exceed 2' x 2'. Presentation board may be minimally decorated.
11. 50% of the decorations must be made and added during the competition hour. Minimal artificial decorations may be used.

12. All parts of cake must be edible, with exception of plastic plates, pillars and supports for tiered cakes. Toothpicks, wires and non-edible stamens are allowed in the creation of sugar flowers or other decorations.
13. Licensed character cakes and the use of any licensed or trademarked characters are strictly forbidden.