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## **Christmas in St. Michaels Announces 2016 Gingerbread Competition and Demo**

**St. Michaels, MD**—Christmas in St. Michaels has announced the rules for its 2016 Gingerbread Competition and details about its demonstration on how to create an entry for the competition. The rules have been changed this year to allow any type of gingerbread creation.

Alice Petizon, chair of the Gingerbread Competition committee, explained: “Over the years, people have submitted some lovely entries that were not houses, and the judges faced a dilemma because the rules specified that entries had to be “houses.” We anticipate that most entries will be houses of some sort, but changing the rules allows for other types of creations.”

A free demonstration of techniques used in making a gingerbread creation will be held on Saturday, November 5, at 2:00 p.m. at the St. Michaels branch of the Talbot County Free Library, 106 Fremont Street. Experienced bakers and past participants in gingerbread competitions will conduct the session. Recipes, a listing of helpful hints and a flyer explaining contest categories, cash prizes and rules will be distributed. In addition, the library will feature a display of books on gingerbread structures. For complete information about the Gingerbread Competition, visit [christmasinstmichaels.org](http://christmasinstmichaels.org).

The Gingerbread Competition is open to the entire family because the seven categories of the competition encompass all ages. Cash prizes—which this year total \$2,000—are awarded in each category.

- Master (chefs, caterers and anyone who chooses) – \$500 1st Prize
- Adult (19+) – \$300 1st Prize, \$200 2nd Prize, \$150 3rd Prize
- Young Adult (13-18) – \$100 1st Prize
- Child (12 and under) – \$100 1st Prize
- Child (12 and under) with Adult– \$100 1st Prize
- Kits: Child (12 and under); Young Adult (13-18); Adult (19+) – \$50 1st Prize in each age group
- Non-profit Community Organization – Open to all non-profit community organizations; no kits permitted in this category – \$150 1st Prize

In addition to the above categories, a \$150 cash prize will be awarded for the Candy Backus Award (Best Depiction of the Eastern Shore) and \$100 for the Peoples’ Choice Award.

The Gingerbread Competition, which has no entry fee, officially begins on Saturday, December 3. Entries will be accepted from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at The Woman’s Club of St. Michaels at 401 St. Mary’s Square in St. Michaels. Judging will take place the following day.

The Gingerbread Preview Cocktail Party (adults only, please) will take place on Sunday, December 4, at 5:00 p.m. at The Woman's Club of St. Michaels. Tickets are \$50 and allow attendees to enjoy cocktails and hors-d'oeuvres, view all the entries and participate in the silent auction to purchase the donated gingerbread creations.

All gingerbread entries, including an Old Fashioned Christmas Village and Train Exhibit, will be on display during the three-day Christmas in St. Michaels event December 9, 10 and 11. It will include a Yuletide Party and 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Talbot Street Parade and Tour of Homes. Other events of special interest to children include Breakfast with Santa and Santa's Wonderland. Additional offerings include the Marketplace for hand-crafted gifts and gourmet foods, special musical events and wonderful shops decorated for Christmas, many of which offer the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Christmas in St. Michaels Collectors Ornament. Visit [christmasinstmichaels.org](http://christmasinstmichaels.org) for more information.

