

32nd Annual Holiday Gala
Benefiting Epilepsy Foundation of San Diego County

Gingerbread City

HOPE
for the Holidays
Dec. 11. 2025

CALLING ALL
GINGERBREAD
ARTISTS!



FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.epilepsysandiego.org
or call 619-296-0161

Gingerbread City

THEME

GRAND CATEGORY

1st place prize

\$500

2nd place prize

\$250

PETITE CATEGORY

1st place

\$300

2nd place

\$200

Hope & the Holiday Spirit

This year's Gingerbread City Gala theme—**Hope & the Holiday Spirit**—is your chance to dream big and inspire through sugar and spice! Imagine candy-stained glass cathedrals, sparkling trees of hope, gingerbread bridges of peace, or whimsical holiday villages alive with joy. Whatever you create, let it be bold, magical, and full of heart—because your masterpiece will not only dazzle guests, it will also bring hope to the 50,000 San Diegans living with epilepsy.

Think of gingerbread as your canvas and sugar as your paintbrush, bringing to life the joy, warmth, and wonder of the season while celebrating the hope that carries us into a brighter future.

Let your imagination run wild:

- **A gingerbread cathedral** glowing with candy-stained glass that symbolizes light breaking through darkness.
- **A whimsical gingerbread North Pole village**, with tiny homes decorated in shimmering sugar icicles, representing community and togetherness.
- **A towering gingerbread tree of hope**, its branches hung with sparkling candy ornaments, each one a symbol of wishes coming true.
- **A gingerbread carousel of joy**, with peppermint-striped horses and spinning sugar wheels, capturing the magic of holiday cheer.
- **A delicate gingerbread bridge of peace**, stretching across a river of spun sugar, reminding us that hope connects us all.
- **A gingerbread globe**, blanketed in snowy frosting, celebrating unity, resilience, and the spirit of giving.

Whatever you choose to build, let it be bold, beautiful, and full of heart—because each creation tells a story of hope and helps brighten the lives of the 50,000 San Diegans living with epilepsy.

ARTISTIC INSPIRATION



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Gingerbread City

STRUCTURE GUIDELINES

**ENTRY
DEADLINE
OCTOBER 20,
2025**

NOTE
All competition
structures become
the property of
the EFSDC

PETITE CATEGORY

Structure base limited to 20"x 20" with no height restrictions

GRAND CATEGORY

Structure base* limited to 32"x 42" with no height restrictions

- **Structure should convey an interpretation of the theme**
- **Structure must be comprised of mainly gingerbread with at least 70% visible gingerbread from exterior façade.** The remaining materials must be comprised of other edible materials
- **Prevent structure collapse!** The frame (base, reinforcements, etc.) may be made of non-edible materials
- **Entire structure must be covered in edible materials**
- **Decorations may include lights and small motors, but ALL other decoration must be of edible materials. Please use preservatives. Structures are for display purposes.**

**Base restrictions are designed to ensure transportability of structures. Please note that 32"x 42" is the dimension limit for the complete and covered base board; cut board smaller than 32'x 42" if necessary to accommodate the thickness of your chosen covering.*

STIPEND

A small stipend to help offset the costs of materials and supplies. A stipend of \$150 will be offered to artists in the Grand Category. A stipend of \$100 will be offered to entries in the Petite Category. You may request a stipend on the entry form.

If you cancel your participation, the stipend must be returned to the Epilepsy Foundation of San Diego County within ten days of cancellation.

Requested stipends will be processed and mailed to the postal address listed on the entry form. Please make sure your form includes your full address, including any apartment number.

Gingerbread City

EVENT DETAILS

JUDGING

Structures will be judged using a standard 5 point scale, based on the following criteria:

Petit Category

- Use of gingerbread
- Artistic use of color
- Overall design/appearance
- Precision
- Creative interpretation of the theme
- Degree of difficulty

Grand Category

- Creative use of edible media
- Artistic use of color
- Overall design/appearance
- Precision
- Creative interpretation of the theme
- Degree of difficulty

EVENT ATTENDANCE

We are pleased to provide **ONE free ticket** to the Gingerbread City Gala to each team that requests one. A second ticket may be purchased for a reduced fee of \$150 per team. This charge is necessary to cover our costs for attendance at the event

SCHEDULE

Event Date:

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Place:

San Diego Natural History Museum
1788 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 92101

Time:

Artists may load-in structures at 1 pm on December 11, 2025, at the San Diego Natural History Museum. Structures must be fully assembled by 3 pm. More details will be provided prior to the event. Please bring anything you may need to move your structure from your vehicle into the museum, including anyone needed to move the structure. We will not have carts available and we will not have anyone available to unload structures.

Structure Load-In:

Information for load-in access will be provided closer to the event date.

Questions:

Email Dayna Bondurant at
dayna@epilepsysandiego.org

Please online entry form can be found at:

<https://forms.gle/MYYcgEo7V9R4PA1r6>

Please complete your entry **by October 20th, 2025.**