

ILLINOIS 4-H

Cake It 'Til You Make It: Cake Decorating Competition



Contact:

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Contest Eligibility

1. A contestant must be an enrolled 4-H member and register for the event via ZSuite prior to participation.
2. All contestants must be between the ages of 8 – 18 years old as of September 1st, 2025.
3. Contestants not officially entered by the registration deadline will not be permitted to participate for any reason.

Contest Rules

1. There will be two competition divisions: Beginner (those currently enrolled in a Visual Arts: Food Decorating Beginning project) and Intermediate/Advanced (those currently enrolled in a Visual Arts: Food Decorating Intermediate or Advanced project).
2. Beginners must use a minimum of four techniques. Intermediate/Advanced must use a minimum of five techniques.
3. Three potential themes will be provided at the event registration deadline. On the day of the competition, one theme will be randomly selected. This is the theme all contestants will complete.
4. Each contestant will decorate the provided 8" round cake in the allotted one-hour and 30-minute time frame in accordance with the randomly selected theme. Crumb coating will be completed on-site by contestants.

5. Beginners are recommended to complete a single-layer cake, while Intermediate/Advanced may choose to complete either a single-layer or a two-layer cake.
6. Only edible materials may be used for decoration.
7. Contestants must work independently.
8. The use of electronic devices during competition is prohibited.
9. Contestants are expected to supply the following supplies, if they wish to use them:
 - a. Support materials for two-layered cakes (i.e., dowels, straws, etc.).
 - b. Frosting
 - c. Food color gels/pastes, if frosting has not been colored in advance
 - d. Fondant
 - e. Decorating tools: bags, tips, couplers, spatulas, smoother, turntable, etc.
 - f. Edible embellishments: sprinkles, edible glitter, pearls, flowers, etc.
10. Provided materials include:
 - a. 8" round cakes, up to two per contestant
 - b. Apron
 - c. Work surface
 - d. Shared sink for cleanup and tool washing
 - e. Designated timer
 - f. Paper towels and sanitizing wipes
 - g. Disposable gloves
11. Incremental warnings will be provided throughout the competition (i.e., 30-minute warning, 10-minute warning).
12. Workstations must be cleaned before judging.

Judging

15% creativity and originality
15% neatness and cleanliness
25% technique and skill
15% use of theme
30% overall presentation

1. Ties will be broken by the judges.
2. Judges will use the 4-H Illinois Cake Decorating Evaluation Form.
3. At the discretion of the contest organizers, the event can be cancelled due to low participation numbers.

Event Schedule

Beginner

9:45 – 10:00 am	Check – in time
10:00 – 10:20 am	Orientation and Set Up
10:20 – 11:50 am	Cake Decorating Competition (Beginner)
11:50 – 12:00 pm	Clean Up
12:00 – 12:45 pm	Lunch
12:45 – 1:00 pm	Presentations
1:00 – 1:10 pm	Awards
1:15 – 2:15 pm	Tour

Intermediate/Advanced

11:00 - 11:15 am	Check-in
11:15 – 12:00 pm	Lunch
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Tour
1:10 – 1:30 pm	Orientation and set-up
1:30 – 3:00 pm	Cake Decorating Competition (Intermediate/Advanced)
3:00 – 3:10 pm	Cleanup
3:10 – 3:25 pm	Presentations
3:25 – 3:35 pm	Awards

Awards

Awards will be announced at the conclusion of the Illinois 4-H Cake Decorating Competition for the top three (3) contestants in each category (Beginner and Intermediate/Advanced).

Entry Information

All entry information, including registration instructions, deadlines, and instructions and procedures, is available on the Illinois 4-H State Cake It 'Til You Make It Cake Decorating Competition website at: <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/state-events/cake-it-til-you-make-it-cake-decorating-competition>.



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