

Cake Decorating

Description: The cake decorating project allows youth to utilize their artistic ability and expressions as they learn decorating techniques and skills. Anyone wanting to learn baking skills should refer to the 4-H foods project.

State Fair Entries: 3 entries per county; one per level.

- Enroll in 4-H, pay annual program fee, and enter project in V2.4online by May 15
- Enter exhibit(s) in FairEntry by May 24, 2024. See Page 7 Rule #24.
- Exhibits checked-in Saturday, June 15, 2024 from 9am-12 pm, judging starts at 12:30 pm

An Allen County 4-H General Record Sheet must be completed, signed and turned in at the beginning of check-in for All Exhibit Building Projects.

Exhibit Guidelines: The cake decorating project provides skills-based educational experiences that provide an opportunity for mastery before building on that experience to develop more advanced skills. This subject area is divided into three levels: Beginner (Grades 3-5), Intermediate (Grades 6-8), and Advanced (Grades 9-12). While the defined grades are intended to be a guide, older youth enrolled in this subject for the first time may start in a lower grade skill level with permission by the county extension educator, followed by an appropriate level the following year.

Skills and techniques demonstrated should be age/grade appropriate. While it is not to say a beginner level member cannot master an advanced level skill, it would be rare and unique. Therefore, exhibited cakes must demonstrate the minimum five techniques from their given level outlined in [Indiana 4-H Cake Decorating Skills and Techniques, 4-H 710A](#), but may also include higher/lower level techniques that have been mastered. Any higher/lower level techniques will not be counted as part of the minimum five, but nevertheless will be evaluated for quality. All exhibited cakes must be created using a Styrofoam, foam, or other solid dummy. Unless otherwise stated, cakes are to be iced using royal icing or buttercream. Buttercream icing will not withstand environmental conditions and may become soft, melt, not withhold its shape, and colors may bleed when being displayed an extended period of time. When displaying a cut-up cake or tiered cake, the exhibitor must include a diagram and description indicating how the cake was assembled. This diagram and description can be attached to or written on the skills sheet. All exhibits must include a completed [Cake Decorating Skills Sheet](#) (4-H 710) and must accompany the cake for the judge's reference during judging. Skills sheets are for judging purposes only and will not be returned to the exhibitor.

Judges evaluating exhibits should recognize individual differences and creativity, therefore using information in this document as a guide rather than a requirement.

Exhibit Class Guidelines:

Beginner (grades 3-5 suggested): A minimum of five beginner level skills are to be demonstrated. A list of skills to choose from can be found on the [Indiana 4-H Cake Decorating Skills and Techniques, 4-H 710A](#) sheet. Cakes must be on a cake board strong enough to support the cake (approximately 3/8" thick) and 2-4" larger than the cake. For example, if the cake is 8" in diameter, then the cake board must be 10-12" in diameter. The cake board must be neatly covered and well taped or otherwise attached underneath. Cakes exhibited in the beginner level are to be a single tier/layer, no more than 5" tall, and may be round, square, or rectangular and the cake board is to be no more 12"x12".

Intermediate (grades 6-8 suggested): A minimum of five intermediate level skills are to be demonstrated and the cake may include additional skills from the beginner level. A list of skills to choose from can be found on the [Indiana 4-H Cake Decorating Skills and Techniques, 4-H 710A](#) sheet. Cakes must be on a cake board strong enough to support the cake (approximately 3/8" thick) and 2-4" larger than the cake. For example, if the cake is 9"x13" rectangular, then the cake board must be 11"x15" to 13"x17" rectangular. The cake board must be neatly covered and well taped or otherwise attached underneath. Cakes exhibited in the intermediate level are to be a single or double tier/layer, no more than 12" tall and may be any shape. Youth may choose to decorate an inverted (upside down) character pan or create a 3-dimensional cake. It is also permissible to cut-up pieces of Styrofoam, foam, or other solid material to create a new shape, like a butterfly or castle for example. The cake board is to be no more than 24"x24".

Advanced (grades 9-12 suggested): A minimum of five advanced level skills are to be demonstrated and the cake may include additional skills from the beginner and intermediate levels. A list of skills to choose from can be found on the [Indiana 4-H Cake Decorating Skills and Techniques, 4-H 710A](#) sheet. Cakes must be on a cake board strong enough to support the cake (approximately 1/2" thick) and 4" larger than the base cake. For example, if the cake is 26" in diameter, then the cake board must be 30" in diameter. The cake board must be neatly covered and well taped or otherwise attached underneath. Cakes exhibited in the advanced level may be multiple layer and/or tiered and may include multiple cakes, like a wedding cake. Youth may choose to create a character or 3-dimensional cake by cutting-up pieces of Styrofoam, foam, or other solid material to create a new shape. Dowel rods, plates, etc. should be used to support multiple layers and tiers. Fondant icing, gum, and sugar paste is permissible. Cakes may be any shape, no more than 36" tall and the cake board is to be no more than 36"x36". A minimum of five advanced level skills are to be demonstrated and the cake may include additional skills from the beginner and intermediate levels. A list of skills to choose from can be found on the Indiana 4-H Cake Decorating Skills and Techniques, 4-H 710A sheet.