

CAKE DECORATING

PLEASE NOTE: Any changes/updates from the previous year will be *BOLDED and ITALICIZED*! Pay special attention to any projects with *BOLD, ITALICIZED WORDS* because they have changed from last year.

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.

Completion, exhibition participation, and State Fair information for Cake Decorating			
Division/Level	Grades (suggested)	Completion Activities Needed	Maximum State Fair Entries
Beginner	Skills Techniques	EXHIBITION WITH SKILL SHEET –or– RECORD SHEET	1 Entry
Intermediate	Skills Techniques	EXHIBITION WITH SKILL SHEET –or– RECORD SHEET	1 Entry
Advanced	Skills Techniques	EXHIBITION WITH SKILL SHEET –or– RECORD SHEET	1 Entry

SUGGESTED REFERENCE MATERIALS (available for purchase in Extension Office or <https://wilton.com/>)

- Level 1 and 2 books are online at: <https://wilton.com/>
- Level 3: Fondant and Gum Paste (available in limited supplies)

GUIDELINES

1. Refer to the Hendricks County 4-H Policies, Entry & Exhibit Guidelines for poster and general display guidelines.
2. Be sure to enroll in the project on 4-HOnline and enter exhibit information into FairEntry by designated date.
2025 designated FairEntry Deadline is Tuesday, July 1st at 11:59 p.m.
3. Complete the Cake Decorating record sheet (if not exhibiting at the Hendricks County 4-H Fair).
4. 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.
5. 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 for an extended period. 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 available in the Hendricks County Extension Office.

EXHIBIT CLASSES

Beginner Level: 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 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 than 12"x12".

Intermediate Level: 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 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" x 15" to 13" x 17" 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 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 Level: 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 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 layers 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".