



**Professional, Amateur and Youth Cake Competition  
Rules, Guidelines and Additional Information**

May 3, 2026 | 5:30 – 7:30 pm  
Coal Creek Family YMCA

# **Sweet Dreams Cake Competition**

*Baking up birthday joy for children experiencing homelessness*

## **Event Information**

Birthday Dreams invites you to showcase your baking and decorating talents at the **Sweet Dreams Cake Competition** on **Sunday, May 3, 2026**. Professional bakers, passionate amateurs, and talented youth will create stunning cake designs in a friendly competition that celebrates creativity while helping raise funds for children experiencing homelessness. Every cake entered helps support Birthday Dreams' mission of bringing joy, celebration, and hope to children who might otherwise go without a birthday party.

Throughout the evening, guests will admire the creative entries and participate in our **"Take the Cake" Silent Auction**, bidding on the beautiful cake creations displayed during the competition. Competition winners will be announced at **6:30 PM**, and the silent auction will close at **7:15 PM**, when winning bidders may claim the cakes they have purchased.

The event will take place at the **Coal Creek Family YMCA**.  
13750 Newcastle Golf Club Rd  
Newcastle, WA

The public event runs from **5:30 PM to 7:30 PM**. Cake competitors will check in between **4:30 and 5:00 PM**, with judging beginning at **5:00 PM** and concluding by **6:30 PM**, when competition awards will be presented.

## **Competition Categories**

The competition is divided into 3 categories:

**Professional:** Open to all professional cake artists, cake decorators, and teachers.

**Amateur:** Open to all hobby bakers, cake decorators, and non-professionals. Amateurs must have a Food Handling Permit. There is a \$10 fee to take a test and receive your card. <https://www.foodworkercard.wa.gov/>

**Youth:** Open to youth 18 years old or younger.

All aspects of the baking and decorating are to be done by the entrant, with the exception of help building non-edible structures.

## **Theme**

There is no theme. Let your imagination run wild—but most importantly, have fun! Each competitor has the freedom to create the best possible presentation. 95% of the cake must be made of edible materials. Items that are not edible must be obvious, like structure, lighting, special effects or wires for flowers.

## **Arrival Time and Information for all Cake Competitors**

Load in for all cake competitors will be between 4:00 and 4:30 pm. You may temporarily park behind the building and bring your cake in through the back doors by the big tent. Please find alternative parking as soon as possible so that other competitors can easily unload their cakes. You are welcome to bring someone to help you set up.

An event volunteer will check you in at the check-in desk. The event volunteer will issue you an event wristband, and show you to the Cake Competition Exhibit area. You will be issued a number which will correspond to a location on the table. No names will be associated with the cakes until after the judging.

## **Cake Display**

The display tables are 6 feet long and pre-skirted with tablecloths. Each competitor will have 36" for their display. The maximum diameter for the cake board is 30", with no height restrictions.

All cakes *must* be final and fully assembled with the exception of small details. You will NOT fill, stack, frost, or heavily decorate your entry during set-up. You will ONLY be allowed to add small details such as cake toppers, assembled figurines, or last minute/quick additions. There will not be any utensils, sinks, paper towels, or any other materials for you to use in this room or throughout the venue.

The display must be solely the work of the person on the entry form. The organizers have the right to use photographs taken of competitors' displays for commercial purposes.

Prior to judging, no names or advertising will be allowed on the table. After judging has completed and names and/or awards have been announced, competitors may place business cards and/or brochures next to their display within their 3' area on the table.

We encourage each competitor to title their creation and provide a brief description (less than 150 words). Send this information to [events@birthdaydreams.org](mailto:events@birthdaydreams.org) by Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Providing this will allow judges and guests to learn about your concept and inspiration.

## **Judging**

Judging will begin at 5:00 pm and conclude by 6:30 pm - all submissions will be scored during the judging round. Your creation will remain on display until 7:15 pm.

Judges will evaluate entries based on creativity, design, technical execution, structure and stability, overall presentation, and taste (Professional and Amateur categories only).

**Competitors from the Amateur and Professional categories must include a small tasting such as a 4" diameter cake or 4 cupcakes to be included in the tasting portion of the competition.**

Judges' decisions are final.

## **Criteria**

- Maximum diameter for the cake board is 30".
- The entire cake must be 95% edible and non-toxic. Only cake boards, wires for flowers and support are allowed for inedible items. This does not apply to the Youth competitors.
- Entries must be at least 75% real cake. Up to 20% can be rice cereal and 5% can be other materials (moving parts, electrical, other special effects, etc.).
  - Cake must be covered with edible materials.
  - Toppers or anything added to the outside of the cake must be handcrafted and made of edible material. Store bought decorations will be judged accordingly.
- Use of non-toxic items (luster dust, disco dust, etc.) IS permitted.
- Electricity will be available upon request.
- Cheesecakes are not permitted.

## **Awards Ceremony**

Winners will be announced at 6:30 pm. The first, second and third place winners in each category will receive a Birthday Dreams Cake Competition trophy. Other prizes will also be awarded. Competition prizes are subject to change at the discretion of Birthday Dreams. Competitors do not have to stay for the entire event, but are encouraged to be present for the awards ceremony.

## **Removal of Entries**

Youth cakes and cakes that do not sell in the auction should be removed by 7:45 pm. In this case, the competitor has the option of taking the cake home, or we can donate it to a local shelter. If the cake is present at 8:00 pm, it will be donated.

## **FAQ**

Q: What happens if my entry is damaged en route to the competition?

A: We suggest taking pictures of your completed piece before traveling in case of accidents. Judges will use the printed picture at their discretion when evaluating your entry.

Q: What are some things judges look for in a competition piece?

A: Are your boards covered? Is there any cake, wires, etc. unintentionally exposed? How many techniques have you used? Is your design cohesive? Does it meet the rules or requirements? Overall appearance? Creativity? Taste?

Q: I signed up to enter, but now cannot participate.

A: We will miss seeing your amazing creation, but because this is a fundraiser, we will be unable to refund your entrance fee.

Q: May I win the auction for my own cake?

A: Yes! You may bid on and win any cake in the competition, including your own.

***Note: We are also looking for cupcakes for the cake walk. Please let us know if you are also able to provide cupcakes.***