

**CAKE DECORATING DAY**  
Lausche Youth Exploration Space  
Thursday, July 30, 2026  
TAMMIE STRAWSER, Assistant Superintendent

**GENERAL GUIDELINES**

1. Age of Participants:

- Junior (age 13 or under) as of January 1 of the current year.
- Senior (age 14 or over) as of January 1 of the current year.

2. Participation Guidelines:

- Clock trophy winners from the 2025 Cake Decorating Day are not eligible to participate in the same class in 2026.
- Counties may send only one participant per class. No individual may participate in more than one class.
- Participants who are registered in the incorrect class will not be eligible for any awards.
- Educational poster boards cannot be used as the participants only display.
- An area will be provided to place cakes prior to judging. Items placed in the area are at the participants' discretion and risk. OSU 4-H and State Fair personnel are not responsible for display items.
- All cake decorating projects must remain until the conclusion of the awards ceremony. Displays are used by judges to determine Outstanding of the Day and Clock Trophy winners. Any cakes remaining after the awards ceremony will be displayed in the Lausche Youth Exploration Space the following day and then discarded.

3. Type of Evaluation:

- Judges will evaluate participants in classes on the following (see sample score sheet):
  - 40% Knowledge of Project Area
  - 20% Communication effectiveness during interview
  - 20% Quality of Display
  - 20% Project Analysis (Project Book Completion and records)

4. Participant to bring:

- Registration materials provided by your county Extension 4-H Professional.
- Completed project book (see judging evaluation guide above). Including a written summary, if required from project guidelines.
- **One** decorated cake/cupcake made as a part of your 4-H project to use during the interview with the judge to show how well you can apply the skills taught in your project area.
- Participants should bring an additional display, which represents their learning experience. The display does not need to be a tri-fold display board. If the display is something other than a poster or tri-fold display board, it must be limited in size to what the participant can handle/maneuver without assistance.
- Cake Decorating participants may decorate an actual cake, cupcake, or use a Styrofoam base.

- Skills used on cakes should only be those in the current and previous checklist that the participant is completing.
- Only those participants in advanced classes may bring in tiered cakes with a maximum of 4 tiers. Beginner and Intermediate participants bring one-layer cakes not to exceed 4 inches in height.
- Cakes and judging materials must be carried into the judging area by the 4-H member without assistance.

## CLASSES

J-1	Cake Decorating, Beginner Jr	J-4	Cake Decorating, Intermediate Sr
J-2	Cake Decorating, Beginner Sr	J-5	Cake Decorating, Advanced Jr
J-3	Cake Decorating, Intermediate Jr	J-6	Cake Decorating, Advanced Sr

## AWARDS

1. All participants will receive a participation ribbon sponsored by The Ohio State Fair.
2. “Outstanding of the Day” ribbons, sponsored by The Ohio State Fair, will be awarded to the top 20% of the class.
3. A clock trophy will be awarded to the class winner. In 2025 the trophies were sponsored by **Artisan Sugarcrafters of Ohio, Ren Hopkins & Alex Hively, Dr. Denise Shockley, Jared & Crystal Ott, Laurie & Richard Hall, Mary Roediger, Beth Miller, Precious Gems and Antiques, Tammie Strawser & Ashlea & Natalie Hull, Tom & Ellen Robinson, Katrina Norris, and Besty Moore.**
4. Awards will be presented at 5:00 pm (subject to postponement if additional judging time is needed).
5. Those not present for the awards ceremony may pick up their awards, or arrange for another to do so, from the 4-H state fair office located in the Lausche Youth Exploration Space until the conclusion of the fair. Unclaimed awards will be sent to county extension offices after the fair.
6. Results will be posted online at <https://ohio4h.org/ohiostatefair>.

## 2025 CLASS WINNERS

J-01 Cake Decorating, Beginner Jr.	Grace Davidson, Shelby
J-02 Cake Decorating, Beginner Sr.	Addilyn Snyder, Williams
J-03 Cake Decorating, Intermediate Jr.	Olivia Wilhelmy, Brown
J-04 Cake Decorating, Intermediate Sr	Gracie Frank, Warren
J-05 Cake Decorating, Advanced Jr.	Mackenzie Elikier, Medina
J-06 Cake Decorating, Advanced Sr.	Michaela Thompson, Madison

## **JUDGING SCHEDULE**

The exact schedule of participation will depend on the number reporting at any one time. Members should bring registration information provided by their County 4-H Professional to the registration desk in the Lausche Youth Exploration Space. Registration will begin 15 minutes before judging time.

9:30 a.m.	Ashland, Clark, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Pickaway
10:00 a.m.	Allen, Champaign, Franklin, Logan, Marion
10:30 a.m.	Coshocton, Crawford, Greene, Licking, Madison, Muskingum
11:00 a.m.	Hardin, Hocking, Holmes, Knox, Morrow, Richland, Union
11:30 a.m.	Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Ottawa, Perry, Ross, Wyandot
1:00 p.m.	Athens, Auglaize, Clinton, Guernsey, Morgan, Shelby, Vinton
1:30 p.m.	Highland, Huron, Jackson, Medina, Meigs, Pike, Seneca, Stark, Summit, Williams
2:00 p.m.	Belmont, Hancock, Mahoning, Tuscarawas, Wayne, Wood
2:30 p.m.	Butler, Carroll, Clermont, Darke, Defiance, Erie, Hamilton, Harrison, Lorain, Lucas, Warren
3:00 p.m.	Jefferson, Monroe, Noble, Paulding, Portage, Preble, Putnam, Sandusky, Scioto, Van Wert
3:30 p.m.	Adams, Ashtabula, Brown, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Fulton, Gallia, Geauga, Henry, Lake, Lawrence, Trumbull, Washington

## 4-H State Fair Project Evaluation Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Exhibitor number: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Age as of January 1 (current year): \_\_\_\_\_

Project name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of years in project: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a brief description of what you brought today to display your project (i.e., poster, equipment, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_

**Keep this sheet with you until the judge calls your exhibitor number.**

Judges—Please place an “x” in the column that most closely describes this entry.

<b>Judging Guidelines</b>	<b>Excellent</b> Outstanding work that exceeds expectations	<b>Very Good</b> Well done, with few minor if any errors	<b>Good</b> Appropriate for member's age and experience	<b>Average</b> Solid grasp of fundamentals
<b>Knowledge (40%)</b> Member demonstrates knowledge of basic concepts, skills, safety protocols (if applicable), and other project information.				
<b>Communication (20%)</b> Member communicates effectively with a positive attitude and with appropriate personal appearance.				
<b>Project Book (20%)</b> Project book is completed appropriately and provides an accurate record of project activities.			(book is complete)	(book needs some work)
<b>Display (20%)</b> Content is accurate, complete and displayed in a way that is neat and creative. It showcases knowledge and skills gained through project work.				

Strengths:

Areas for improvement: