

CAKE DECORATING

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

4-H members will have the opportunity to: develop cake decorating skills, promote creativity, contribute to family celebrations, encourage the use of these skills in all phases of business. The cake decorating subject provides skills-based educational experiences that provide an opportunity for mastery before building on that experience to develop more advanced skills. 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.

This subject area is divided into three levels:

Beginner (Grades 3-5)

Intermediate (Grades 6-8)

Advanced (Grades 9-12)

GENERAL

Specific techniques are required for each level and are not to have higher grade level skill techniques, as they 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-H710A, 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 specified otherwise, cakes are to be iced using Royal icing. Youth may practice skills using buttercream, but this type of 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 710A). This sheet may be attached to the cake board. NOTE: This is a non-perishable project, the cake form is a Styrofoam cake dummy NOT real cake.

BEGINNER: GRADES 3-5

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" round, then the cake board must be 10-12" round. 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". A minimum of five 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-H710A sheet.

A Cake Decorating Exhibit Skills Sheet (4-H 710A) is to be attached to each Cake Decorating exhibit for judging.

INTERMEDIATE: GRADES 6-8

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"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 layer and may be any shape. Youth may choose to decorate an inverted (upside down) character pan, 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". 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-H710A sheet.

A Cake Decorating Skills Sheet (4-H 710A), is to be attached to each Cake Decorating exhibit for judging.

ADVANCED: GRADES 9-12

Cakes must be on a cake a cake board approximately ½” thick and 4” larger than the base cake. For example, if the cake is 26” round, then the cake board must be 30” round. 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 and gum 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-H710A sheet.

A Cake Decorating Skills Sheet (4-H 710A), is to be attached to each Cake Decorating exhibit for judging.

STATE FAIR ENTRY: 1 entry each Level NOTE: Royal icing is not required, but is highly recommended on State Fair Exhibits to increase stability while being transported to the fair.

