

**gardenKitchener**

Kitchener Horticultural Society  
Rockway Gardens



# Glimmering Gardens Outdoor Holiday Decor Competition

Guiding Documents



*Last update: October 25, 2024*

# Glimmering Gardens Outdoor Holiday Decor Competition: Rules & Regulations

## **1. Eligibility:**

The competition is open only to active members of GardenKitchener (The Kitchener Horticultural Society) as of the registration start date.

Contestants must be residents of the Province of Ontario, as the competition takes place in accordance with Ontario contest laws.

Participation is limited to one entry per household.

## **2. Holiday Display Visibility:**

All holiday displays must be visible from public property (e.g., the street or sidewalk).

Displays can be positioned on balconies, front porches, or front lawns, but participants must ensure that the displays are visible to the general public without requiring anyone to step onto private property.

## **3. Safety Compliance:**

All participants are required to follow proper safety regulations for holiday lighting and decorations. Any displays not adhering to basic safety standards (such as proper use of outdoor-rated lights and safe electrical connections) may be disqualified.

## **4. Registration:**

Registration opens on November 15th at 8:30 a.m. and closes on December 15th at 10:00 p.m. Late entries will not be accepted.

Participants must complete the online registration form available at [kitchenerhs.ca](http://kitchenerhs.ca). The form will require:

Name and contact information

Submission of at least one photograph of the outdoor holiday decor to be judged.

Optional: Home address to be featured on a virtual holiday décor tour map.

Participants consent to the display of their submitted photos on the GardenKitchener website and social media platforms for voting and promotional purposes.

## **5. Categories & Prizes:**

Best Light Display: A prize valued at \$100 CAD awarded for the best use of holiday lights.

Best Use of Natural Greenery: A prize valued at \$100 CAD awarded for creative use of natural plant materials (e.g., evergreen, wreaths).

Member's Choice: A prize valued at \$100 CAD awarded based on most number of votes by members.

## **6. Judging Criteria:**

Submissions will be judged by a panel of GardenKitchener-appointed judges based on the following criteria:

Best Light Display: Design principles & balance, originality, lighting quality, and overall impact.

Best Use of Natural Greenery: Design balance, quality and variety of natural materials, condition and maintenance, and originality.

Judging for these categories will occur the week of December 15th – 20th, with winners announced on December 23rd.

Member's Choice will be determined by member votes between December 16th and December 20th.

## **7. Voting:**

Voting will be open to active GardenKitchener members only from 8:30 a.m. on December 16th to 10:00 p.m. on December 20th, 2024.

Members may vote for one entry only. Voting will take place via a secure online voting system on the GardenKitchener website.

The Member's Choice prize will be awarded based on the highest number of votes received.

## **8. Display & Tour Map:**

By opting in, the addresses of each participant's display will be included on a digital holiday décor tour map, encouraging other GardenKitchener members to view the displays in person.

Participants agree to maintain their décor throughout the competition period, ensuring that it remains visible and in good condition for voting.

## **9. Compliance with Ontario Contest Laws:**

The contest follows all relevant contest regulations in Ontario, ensuring that it is not considered an illegal lottery or raffle:

No purchase is required to enter.

The contest is not subject to the Gaming Control Act as it involves skill-based judging, and no entry fees or mandatory financial consideration are required.

The competition adheres to privacy laws in Ontario, including PIPEDA (Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act), by ensuring that all personal information collected (e.g., addresses for the tour map) is handled securely and used solely for contest-related purposes.

## **10. Disqualification:**

Entries that do not meet the competition requirements (e.g., failure to adhere to submission deadlines, improper content in displays, not publicly accessible) may be disqualified.

Inappropriate or offensive displays will result in automatic disqualification at the discretion of the judges.

## **11. Prize Distribution:**

Winners will be contacted via the information provided in their registration forms on December 23rd, 2024, and winners will be announced on GardenKitchener's website and social media channels at the same time. Prizes will be distributed in the days following, pending winner's availability.

## **12. Liability:**

GardenKitchener is not responsible for any technical issues or lost entries due to submission errors.

Participants agree to allow GardenKitchener to use their submitted photos for promotional purposes, including future contests and advertisements.

**13. Amendments:**

GardenKitchener reserves the right to modify the contest rules or dates at any time due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g., weather conditions, technical issues).



# Glimmering Gardens Outdoor Holiday Decor Competition Judging Criteria

*Last update: October 25, 2024*

## **Use of Lights / 10**

How original is the light display? How well has colour been used in the lights? Do the lights complement the environment? Are the lights balanced and harmonious? How successful is the overall impact of the light display?

## **Use of Greenery / 10**

How balanced and harmonious is the greenery? Are there a variety of natural materials being used? Is the greenery high quality and well maintained? Does it look fresh? How successful is the overall impact of the greenery display?



# Glimmering Gardens Outdoor Holiday Decor Competition: Terms & Conditions / Privacy Waiver

*Last update: October 25, 2024*

By entering the GardenKitchener Outdoor Holiday Décor Competition (the “Competition”), participants agree to the following terms and conditions and acknowledge how their information will be collected, used, and shared by the Kitchener Horticultural Society (“GardenKitchener”).

## **1. Personal Information Collection & Use:**

Participants will provide personal information including name, contact information, and optionally, address details for inclusion on a public map.

This information is collected solely for the purposes of administering and promoting the Competition, as well as verifying participant eligibility.

Address information will only be published in a digital map if participants expressly consent by checking the relevant box on the registration form.

## **2. Consent for Address Inclusion:**

Participants who provide their address agree for it to be displayed on a digital holiday décor tour map, which will be made available on the GardenKitchener website. This map is intended to guide other GardenKitchener members and the general public to view competition displays from public property.

Displays must be viewable from public property (e.g., sidewalks, streets) without requiring viewers to enter private property.

## **3. Photography & Media Release:**

Participants consent to GardenKitchener using photos of their holiday displays submitted with their entry form for Competition promotion, including on the GardenKitchener website, social media channels, newsletters, and other promotional materials.

Participants agree that these photos may be shared publicly and acknowledge that GardenKitchener holds the right to use these images for future promotional purposes.



#### **4. Data Privacy & Protection:**

GardenKitchener is committed to protecting participant privacy. Personal information collected for this Competition will not be shared with third parties, sold, or used for any purposes unrelated to the Competition.

GardenKitchener will store participant information securely and delete personal data after the conclusion of the Competition, except for the photos and display information retained for future promotional use.

#### **5. Liability Release:**

By participating, entrants agree that GardenKitchener is not responsible for any damages or losses resulting from their participation, including display-related property issues or any incidents that occur during public viewing.

#### **6. Modification Rights:**

GardenKitchener reserves the right to modify these terms and conditions, Competition dates, or rules in the event of unforeseen circumstances. Participants will be notified of any changes.

#### **Acknowledgment of Terms & Conditions:**

By submitting an entry form, participants acknowledge and agree to these terms and conditions. Participants confirm that they understand their personal information will be used as described above and that, if they opt-in, their address will be displayed publicly on a digital map.





# Voting Rules for the Glimmer and Garlands Outdoor Holiday Decor Competition

*Last update: October 25, 2024*

To ensure a fair and enjoyable voting experience, please review the guidelines below:

**Eligibility to Vote:** Only active GardenKitchener members (2024 or 2025) are eligible to vote. Please ensure your membership is active and up to date before casting your vote.

**Voting Period:** Voting opens at 8:30 a.m. on December 16th and closes at 10:00 p.m. on December 20th. Votes cast outside of this time frame will not be counted.

**One Vote per Member:** Each member is allowed to submit one vote only. If multiple vote submissions are received from the same member, only the first vote will be considered valid.

**Anonymous Voting:** All votes are confidential and will remain so. The results will be shared on the website after the judging period concludes.

**Viewing Entries:** Members are encouraged to browse the entries before voting. Take the time to appreciate the creativity and effort of each display by viewing photos and, if possible, visiting the displays in person using our holiday tour map.

**Decision is Final:** All votes are final once submitted. No changes can be made after a vote is cast.

**Voting Platform:** Votes must be submitted through the official online voting form on the GardenKitchener website (<https://www.kitchenerhs.ca/glimmering-gardens-voting/>). Votes submitted through any other means will not be accepted.

**Thank you for participating and helping us recognize the wonderful creativity of our members!**