

Cowboy State Cake Showdown

The Cowboy State Cake Showdown is a limited-entry competition combining the art of cake decorating with the joy of a public tasting, all in support of the Wyoming State Fair Foundation. Ten competitors will go head-to-head for the chance to take home top honors, while fairgoers get a say (and a sample) in the outcome.

The competition has two components, The Golden Fork Tasting and The Golden Tier Decorating. Competition is limited to 10 entrants. Pre-registration is required. Registration closes once all 10 spots are filled, so early sign-up is encouraged. Individual entries and teams of up to two people are welcome. Teams count as one entry.

ENTRY	Online here:
ENTRY DEADLINE	August 9, 2026 at 6:00 PM
ENTRY FEE	\$25 per entry
LOCATION & TIME	McKibben Cafeteria Saturday, August 15, 1:00 PM

1. All general Wyoming State Fair guidelines apply unless otherwise noted.
2. Each class will have an overall winner. The winner of the Golden Fork will win \$100 and the winner of the Golden Tier will receive \$400. These awards will be presented from the Wyoming Fair Foundation.
3. All entrants must participate in both the tasting and decorating components of the contest.
4. Entrants must be present for the duration of the contest.
5. All decisions by the judges and event organizers are final.
6. The Wyoming State Fair and the Wyoming State Fair Foundation reserve the right to photograph all entries for promotional purposes.

Golden Fork TASTING

Each entrant must bring 48 cupcakes or one half-sheet cake (cut into 48 servings) to the competition, prepared prior to the event.

- Cake may be any flavor of the entrant's choosing.
- Cake should be frosted but otherwise undecorated. Simple, clean presentation only. This portion is all about flavor.
- All baked goods must be homemade. Store-bought cakes are not permitted.
- Entrants are responsible for safe food handling and transport of their tasting cake.

Judging: The public votes for their favorite tasting cupcake/ cake by donating money into that cake's designated jar. The entrant whose jar raises the most money wins the Golden Fork Award. All funds raised go directly to the Wyoming State Fair Foundation.

Golden Tier DECORATING

Each entrant will be provided a cake form (specific shape and size to be announced upon registration confirmation) to decorate on-site during the competition.

- Cake forms are provided as-is. No alterations to the form itself are permitted prior to decorating.
- Entrants supply all frosting, fondant, decorations, tools, and any other materials needed.
- Frosting may be prepared in advance, including mixing, coloring, and placing it into piping bags prior to the competition. Fondant decorations and other decorative elements may also be prepared in advance. All decorating, assembly, placement of decorations, piping, and final finishing work must be completed during the 60-minute competition period.
- Each entrant (individual or team) will be provided with two 6-foot tables arranged in an L-shape as their work area. Limited preparation facilities will be available, including access to microwaves and a shared sink. Full kitchen facilities are not available. Entrants should plan accordingly and arrive prepared to complete their design within the provided workspace.
- Entrants will have 60 minutes to complete their decorated cake form. No work may be done before the clock starts or after time is called.
- Theme and design are entirely at the entrant's discretion. Creativity is encouraged.
- A mystery item will be revealed at the start of the competition and must be incorporated into each entrant's final design in a visible and intentional way.

Judging: Decorated cakes will be evaluated by a panel of judges. Judging criteria include creativity and originality, technical skill and execution, and incorporation of the mystery item. The top decorated cake will be awarded the Golden Tier Award.

Cowboy State Cake Showdown is brought to you by:

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