



# Bake Off



**ALABAMA 4-H**  
Alabama Cooperative  
Extension System

Have you ever imagined that you were a famous pastry chef? You stand in front of an audience, using your knowledge and creativity to prepare wonderful, amazing dishes. Bake Off is your chance to do that—at least on an introductory level.

## 2025–2026 Theme: Agriculture

### What You Will Do

- Exhibit your skills with different cooking techniques.
- Share a favorite traditional or original recipe.
- Show how to prepare a tasty and healthy dish.

### What You Will Learn

Besides getting to try new and tasty dishes, 4-H Bake Off will make you a smarter and more imaginative chef. It also will make your meals and snacks healthier and more interesting.

- To make good food decisions, ensuring that every dish is part of a healthy diet.
- To make shopping lists and food menus.
- To demonstrate how well you handle yourself in the kitchen.
- Good culinary techniques.
- How to teach others by presenting your knowledge before a live audience.

Refer to Alabama 4-H Competitive Events on the Alabama Extension website ([aces.edu](https://aces.edu)) to review the [Competitive Events General Policy](#) and the [Age & Eligibility Chart](#).

### LEVELS OF COMPETITION

#### Junior Level I:

9 to 11 years old on December 31 of the current calendar year (compete only at local and regional levels).

#### Intermediate:

12 to 13 years old on December 31 of the current calendar year (compete only at local and regional levels).

#### Senior Level I:

14 to 15 years old on December 31 of the current calendar year.

#### Senior Level II:

16 to 18 years old on December 31 of the current calendar year.

## Rules for All Levels

**Note: Due to nut allergies, no nut products are allowed.**

Each participant must plan and prepare an attractive exhibit of baked foods to display on a tabletop no larger than 3 feet deep and 3 feet wide.

- Participants will include in the exhibit baked products from two of the four categories:
  - Cookie
  - Cake or Cupcakes
  - Quick Bread (muffins, biscuits, cornbread, banana bread)
  - Brownie or Bar

No prepared mixes allowed.

Due to nut allergies, no nut products are allowed.

All items must be baked; no no-bake items, such as cake pops or no-bake cakes or cookies.

- Recipes for the products exhibited must either be included in the exhibit or copies of the recipes must be available at the exhibits.
- Each exhibit should include a 12×12-inch poster with the title of the exhibit. The poster should be supported by a table easel or constructed to stand on its own.
- The 4-H member will answer questions about the exhibit, food preparation, and the place of breads in a balanced diet.
- The 4-H member should be neatly dressed in clean clothes and shoes.

**Each participant will be judged in these areas:**

- Exhibitor (4-H member). 20 points. General appearance, enthusiasm, knowledge of exhibit, neatness, and manners.
- Exhibit. 55 points. Theme, attractiveness, creativity, appearance, and taste.
- Subject Matter. 25 points. Educational, timely, and with stress on nutrition.

## Disqualifications of Entry

- Using a board larger than 12×12 inches (no trifold boards).
- Using a prepared (boxed) mix as an ingredient.
- Senior Level 4-H member not submitting a community service report.
- Keep the display neat and organized.

### Community Service

Telling a great story, showcasing projects at a community library, speaking at a local nursing home, or organizing a community cooking or building blocks workshop are great opportunities to serve others. Serving others helps you build academic skills, learn civic responsibility, and develop leadership. It may also give you a good opportunity to meet new people, publicize 4-H, and practice your communication skills. Alabama 4-H is now requiring all Senior Level 4-H members to add a community service component to all 4-H Competitive Events. Each Senior Level 4-H member will have to complete the 4-H Community Service Report as a part of his or her project. 4-H members will be disqualified if the community service report is not included.

You must decide what service you can provide and not have a parent or 4-H leader make this decision for you. Groups of young people are encouraged to work together to discover how they can serve their community.

## Career Connections

### Culinary Job Descriptions

Skills developed through this project have direct connections to exciting and rewarding careers. Restaurants, hotels, and other food service industries often employ three distinct types of employees—chefs, cooks, and food preparation workers. Visit [www.culinarycareer.net](http://www.culinarycareer.net) for more information about culinary careers.

**Chefs** are responsible for directing the activities of other kitchen workers, planning menus, creating recipes, ordering food and supplies, and some specific cooking duties. They are typically the most experienced and best educated members of the staff.

**Cooks** are responsible for the day-to-day food preparation at the restaurant or facility. Depending on the size of the facility, there may be several cooks, each responsible for a different part of the menu or a different type of food. For example, there are fry cooks, vegetable cooks, pastry cooks, and other specialties.

**Food Preparation Workers** are under the supervision of chefs and cooks and typically perform less skilled duties. For example, they may chop vegetables, prepare salads, and prepare materials used by the restaurant's chefs and cooks.

**Food Service Managers** are often responsible for many of the behind-the-scenes activities that keep the establishment going. Food service managers have responsibilities ranging from ordering food and supplies, selecting menu items and determining their prices, and ensuring the high quality of food preparation and service. They are frequently responsible for administrative tasks.



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## Score Sheet

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Level: \_\_\_ Junior (Age 9–11) \_\_\_ Intermediate (Age 12–13) \_\_\_ Senior I (Age 14–15) \_\_\_ Senior II (Age 16–18)

	Possible	Awarded
<b>Exhibitor</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Wore clean, neat clothes.</li><li>Showed enthusiasm.</li><li>Displayed calm and confident behavior.</li></ul>	10	
<b>Baked Products (Characteristics)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Uniform shape, color, and size.</li><li>Texture appropriate for product (inside and out).</li><li>Pleasing flavor.</li></ul>	50	
<b>Exhibit</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Demonstrated originality and creativity.</li><li>Had good general appearance and followed given theme. Attractive, simple design. No brand name or copyrighted items used.</li><li>Met dimension criteria (3-foot square with no back, including a 12×12-inch poster on an easel or mounted on the front of the table).</li><li>Used even, easy-to-read lettering.</li><li>Included recipes and nutritional information for all two products in the exhibit or in a handout.</li></ul>	20	
<b>Interview of the Participant</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>How the exhibit was made and the source of the information used.</li><li>Food preparation techniques used in preparing baked foods.</li><li>Nutritional value of baked products.</li><li>Recipes for the baked products.</li></ul>	20	
<b>Total Points Awarded</b>	100	

Judges' Comments: