

2026 York County Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Official Contest Rules

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. A PURCHASE OR REAL ESTATE TRANSACTION WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING.

The 2026 York County Pumpkin Decorating Contest (“Contest”) is presented by Matthew Pasciuta, real estate salesperson with The Exchange Real Estate Company (“Sponsor”). Participation in the Contest constitutes acceptance of these Official Rules.

1. Eligibility

The Contest is open to legal residents of **York County, Pennsylvania**.

Individuals age 18 or older may submit their own entry.

Individuals under age 18 may participate only through an entry submitted on their behalf by their parent or legal guardian. A parent or legal guardian may submit separate entries on behalf of multiple children in their household.

Employees of the Sponsor or The Exchange Real Estate Company, Contest judges, and members of their immediate households are not eligible to win.

The Contest is void where prohibited by law.

2. Contest Period

Entries will be accepted beginning **Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 8:00 AM Eastern Time** and must be received no later than **Sunday, October 25, 2026 at 11:59 PM Eastern Time**.

Entries received after the deadline will not be eligible.

People’s Choice voting will begin **Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at 8:00 AM Eastern Time** and will end **Friday, October 30, 2026 at 8:00 PM Eastern Time**.

Winners are expected to be announced on **Saturday, October 31, 2026**.

Sponsor reserves the right to adjust these dates if circumstances reasonably require it. Any material changes will be communicated through the Contest’s promotional channels.

3. How to Enter

There is no fee or purchase required to enter.

To enter, participants must complete the official online Contest entry form during the Contest Period and provide the requested information, including:

- Entrant's name
- Valid email address
- Valid telephone number
- York County ZIP code
- Contest category
- One photograph of the completed pumpkin
- Required acknowledgments and permissions

Entrants submitting on behalf of a minor may also be asked to provide the minor pumpkin creator's first name and age.

Contact information is collected for administration of the Contest, including communicating Contest information and contacting potential winners.

Consent to receive future marketing communications is optional and is not required to enter or win.

4. Entry Limit

Limit **one pumpkin entry per person.**

A person may not submit multiple entries by using different email addresses, telephone numbers, names, or other identifying information.

For entries submitted on behalf of minors, each individual child may have one pumpkin entered. A parent or legal guardian may therefore submit separate entries on behalf of multiple children within the same household.

Sponsor reserves the right to disqualify duplicate entries or entries reasonably believed to have been submitted in violation of these limitations.

5. Contest Categories

Each entry must be submitted into one of the following categories:

Carved Pumpkin

Pumpkins in which carving, cutting, etching, or removal of pumpkin material is the primary decorating technique.

Painted/Decorated Pumpkin

Pumpkins primarily decorated using paint, markers, craft materials, accessories, or other non-carving decorating techniques.

Sponsor may reassign an entry to the appropriate category if an entry was clearly submitted to the incorrect category.

6. Entry Requirements

Each entry must:

- Feature a real pumpkin or gourd as the primary subject;
- Be created by the identified participant;
- Be the participant's original creation;
- Be represented accurately by the submitted photograph;
- Be appropriate for a general community audience; and
- Comply with these Official Rules.

Entries may be creative, humorous, spooky, unusual, or unconventional.

Sponsor reserves the right to reject or disqualify entries containing unlawful material, explicit sexual content, graphic violence, discriminatory or hateful content, personally identifying information about another individual, or other material Sponsor reasonably determines is inappropriate for a community contest.

Use of templates, stencils, patterns, commercially available decorating materials, accessories, and similar aids is permitted. However, the finished pumpkin must have been physically created or decorated by the identified participant.

Only one photograph may be submitted with each entry unless otherwise permitted by the official entry form.

Photographs may be reasonably cropped or adjusted for brightness, exposure, color, or clarity. Images that materially alter the appearance of the pumpkin, add or remove significant design elements, or otherwise misrepresent the physical creation may be disqualified.

7. Judged Category Awards

One winner will be selected from each Contest category:

Best Carved Pumpkin — \$50 Rutter's Gift Card

Best Painted/Decorated Pumpkin — \$50 Rutter's Gift Card

Eligible entries will be evaluated by a panel of judges using the following criteria:

Creativity & Originality — 40%

Originality, imagination, concept, and creative interpretation.

Craftsmanship & Execution — 30%

Quality and skill demonstrated in carving, painting, decorating, construction, and execution of the concept.

Overall Presentation & Visual Impact — 30%

Overall appearance, cohesiveness, visual appeal, and impact of the finished pumpkin.

Judges will score entries independently. Scores will be combined or averaged to determine the highest-scoring entry in each category.

The decisions of the judging panel regarding application of the published judging criteria are final.

8. Judging Ties

If two or more entries receive the same final judging score, the entry receiving the higher **Creativity & Originality** score will prevail.

If a tie remains, the entry receiving the higher **Craftsmanship & Execution** score will prevail.

If a tie still remains, the judging panel will conduct a final vote between the tied entries.

9. People's Choice Award

All eligible entries from both Contest categories may participate in public People's Choice voting.

The winner of the People's Choice Award will receive a **\$25 Rutter's Gift Card**.

Members of the public may cast one official ballot per person using the designated online voting form.

Each ballot may include:

- One vote for a Carved Pumpkin; and
- One vote for a Painted/Decorated Pumpkin.

A voter is not required to cast a vote in both categories for an otherwise valid vote to be counted.

Each individual pumpkin vote will count toward that pumpkin's People's Choice total. The eligible pumpkin receiving the greatest number of valid votes across both categories will be named the People's Choice winner.

A participant may win both a judged category award and the People's Choice Award.

10. Voting Integrity

Limit **one voting ballot per person** during the People's Choice voting period.

Sponsor may require voters to provide a valid email address or other information reasonably necessary to administer the voting process and discourage duplicate or fraudulent voting.

Using multiple email addresses, false identities, automated voting systems, bots, scripts, vote-buying services, fraudulent accounts, or other methods intended to circumvent the voting limitations is prohibited.

Entrants are encouraged to share the Contest and ask friends, family members, coworkers, neighbors, and others to participate in public voting. Ordinary sharing and campaigning for votes is permitted.

No purchase, payment, donation, real estate inquiry, or other transaction may be required in exchange for a vote.

Sponsor reserves the right to investigate voting activity and disregard votes that Sponsor reasonably determines are fraudulent, automated, duplicated, manipulated, obtained through prohibited methods, or otherwise inconsistent with these Official Rules.

If the People's Choice voting results in a tie, the tied entry receiving the highest overall score from the Contest judging panel will be named the People's Choice winner. If necessary, the judging panel will conduct a final vote between the tied entries.

11. Prizes

Three prizes will be awarded:

Best Carved Pumpkin: \$50 Rutter's Gift Card

Best Painted/Decorated Pumpkin: \$50 Rutter's Gift Card

People's Choice: \$25 Rutter's Gift Card

The total approximate retail value of all prizes is **\$125**.

Prizes are not transferable and may not be exchanged for cash by Sponsor.

Sponsor may substitute a prize of equal or greater value if an advertised prize becomes unavailable.

Rutter's is not a sponsor of, affiliated with, or responsible for the administration of this Contest.

Any taxes or other obligations associated with acceptance of a prize are the responsibility of the winner.

12. Winner Notification

Potential winners will be contacted using the email address and/or telephone number provided with their Contest entry.

A potential winner must respond within **72 hours** of the initial notification and provide any information reasonably necessary to verify eligibility and deliver the prize.

If a potential winner cannot be contacted, does not respond within the required period, is determined to be ineligible, declines the prize, or otherwise fails to comply with these Official Rules, the potential winner may forfeit the prize.

For a judged category, the next-highest-scoring eligible entry may then be selected as the potential winner.

For People's Choice, the eligible entry receiving the next-highest number of valid votes may then be selected as the potential winner.

13. Permission to Display and Promote Entries

By entering, participants grant Sponsor and The Exchange Real Estate Company permission to display, reproduce, publish, and share the submitted pumpkin photograph, pumpkin name, description, and participant's first name in connection with administering, promoting, reporting on, and publicizing the Contest.

This permission includes use on websites, social media platforms, email communications, Contest voting materials, promotional materials, and future promotion or recap of the Contest.

Participants retain ownership of their submitted photographs and creations.

Sponsor will not publicly display an entrant's email address, telephone number, street address, or other private contact information as part of the Contest.

For entries submitted on behalf of minors, only information appropriate for public display, such as the child's first name or age, may be used.

14. Marketing Communications

Providing an email address and telephone number is required for Contest administration and winner notification.

Entering the Contest does not require participants to consent to future marketing communications.

Any opportunity to receive future emails or text messages from Matthew Pasciuta or The Exchange Real Estate Company will be presented separately and may be declined without affecting eligibility, judging, voting, or the ability to win a prize.

Where applicable, participants who elect to receive marketing communications may unsubscribe or opt out according to the instructions accompanying those communications.

15. General Conditions

Sponsor reserves the right to disqualify any entrant or voter who attempts to tamper with the entry process, voting process, judging process, Contest form or website, or otherwise attempts to obtain an unfair advantage.

Sponsor reserves the right to cancel, suspend, modify, postpone, or extend the Contest if fraud, technical failures, platform outages, security issues, natural events, circumstances beyond Sponsor's reasonable control, or other conditions materially affect the integrity or administration of the Contest.

If the Contest is modified or terminated after entries have been received, Sponsor will make reasonable efforts to award prizes fairly from among eligible entries received when practical.

Sponsor's reasonable determinations regarding eligibility, rule compliance, duplicate entries, voting integrity, and administration of the Contest are final.

16. Technical Issues

Sponsor is not responsible for entries or votes that are lost, delayed, incomplete, corrupted, misdirected, or not received because of internet connectivity, device compatibility, file-upload failures, email filtering, platform outages, technical malfunction, or other technical issues outside Sponsor's reasonable control.

Entrants and voters are responsible for ensuring that their submissions have been successfully completed.

17. Social Media Disclaimer

The Contest may be advertised, promoted, or discussed on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, or other social media platforms.

The Contest is not sponsored, endorsed, administered by, or associated with Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, their respective parent companies, or other social media platforms on which the Contest may be promoted.

By participating, entrants acknowledge that information related to the Contest is being provided to the Contest Sponsor and not to those social media platforms.

18. No Real Estate Relationship Required

No purchase, payment, real estate consultation, brokerage agreement, listing agreement, buyer representation agreement, real estate transaction, referral, or other business relationship with Matthew Pasciuta or The Exchange Real Estate Company is required to enter, vote, or win.

Participation in the Contest does not create a brokerage, agency, client, fiduciary, or other professional relationship between an entrant or voter and Matthew Pasciuta or The Exchange Real Estate Company.

19. Privacy

Information submitted through the Contest may be used to administer the Contest, verify eligibility, communicate with participants, prevent fraud or duplicate participation, administer voting, and award prizes.

Information may also be used for future marketing communications only as permitted by applicable law and the participant's applicable marketing preferences or consent.

Private contact information collected through the entry or voting process will not be publicly displayed as part of the Contest.

20. Sponsor and Contact Information

Matthew Pasciuta

Real Estate Salesperson

The Exchange Real Estate Company

2500 Kingston Rd

York, PA 17402

Contest Contact:

mpasciuta@theexchangerealestate.com

Questions concerning the Contest may be directed to the Contest Contact email address above.

21. Agreement to Official Rules

By submitting an entry, the entrant acknowledges that they have read, understood, and agreed to these Official Rules.

Participation in the Contest and eligibility to receive a prize are conditioned upon compliance with these Official Rules and all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.