








Importance of Applying for Awards

Garden club awards are vital for fostering community pride, encouraging volunteerism, and recognizing excellence in horticulture, civic beautification, and conservation. They boost member morale, raise awareness of environmental efforts, secure the future of gardening initiatives, and attract new members by highlighting the tangible impact of local projects.

-  **Recognition and Motivation:** Awards provide formal recognition for dedication, encouraging members to continue their efforts in club projects.
-  **Community Impact and Visibility:** Winning projects often improve local landscapes, highlighting the club's role in the community and motivating others to join or support local beautification efforts.
-  **Encourage Best Practices:** These awards set high standards for conservation, garden design, and horticulture, inspiring innovation.
-  **Member Retention and Recruitment:** Active, recognized clubs are more appealing to prospective members, while awards boost current members' sense of accomplishment.
-  **Goal Alignment:** Awards help align local club activities with larger regional, or national goals, such as sustainability and environmental stewardship.

2025 AWARD STATISTICS

-  **44 OUT OF 98** GCFP Clubs received at least 1 award
many of these are for Yearbook, Newsletter, and Flower Show only
-  **5 out of 98** GCFP Clubs submitted youth awards
Poetry Sculpture Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster
-  **0 out of 98** GCFP Clubs submitted a High School Essay Applicant



How to Apply

- Appoint an Awards Chair
- Print the three Awards Manuals from the websites
 - **GCFP Awards Manual:** www.pagardenclubs.org/awards
 - **NGC Awards Handbook:** www.gardenclub.org/ngc-awards
 - **CAR-SGC Awards Rules:** www.car-sgc.org/awards > Awards Rules

All of the above awards start at the state level. They get sent to GCFP Awards Chairs. First place winners are forwarded to CAR-SGC and NGC.

- Read the instructions at the beginning of each manual.
- Go through all of the awards and identify your club projects and members who are worthy of recognition.
- Use the proper application form for each award.
- Be aware of due dates for all awards.
- Identify the proper chair to send your application.
- FOLLOW THE RUBRIC when writing your narrative.
 - **bullets for pertinent information are better than long, flowery paragraphs**
 - **Just the facts — no fluff that is not measurable by the rubric**
 - **always include % of member participation and detailed budget**
- When in doubt, ask for help.