

A. RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **Eligibility:** Only federated clubs, members of these clubs, and groups of federated clubs in good standing are eligible to apply or sponsor applicants.
2. **Awards Year:** January 1 to December 31 (calendar year). Entries due on January 1, 2026, are for 2025 work. Exception: #10 Yearbook which may be for a calendar year or the club year.
3. **Submit Award Entries to:** All AFGC, SCR and NGC Adult Award entries are submitted to the AFGC Awards Chair. Submit all AFGC Youth Award entries to the individual AFGC Youth Chairs.
4. **Deadlines:** All AFGC, SCR and NGC Adult Awards are due January 1.
See each individual AFGC Youth Award information sheet in Presidents' Packet or www.arkansasfgc.net for the due date.
5. **Entries:**
 - A. Must include significant work in the current award year, even if it is a Continuing Project.
 - B. Projects with commercial work will not be considered. Donations are not to be considered projects.
 - C. Must be submitted electronically (exception: #10 Yearbook and #16 Flower Show) and hard copy (mailed) as long as received by the January 1st deadline.
 - D. Keep a copy of entries.
6. **Application Forms:**
 - A. Each entry requires its own AFGC Award Application Cover, found in the President's Packet or on the AFGC website <https://www.arkansasafgc.net/members-only>, password DeepRoots. When the same project is eligible for various awards, do not submit an exact duplication of the application. Emphasize the aspects of the project that meet the criteria of that particular award with each individual entry.
 - B. All applications which include photographs of youth under the age of eighteen must be accompanied by a signed Publications Release Form. This form may be found in President's Packets or at www.gardenclub.org in the Forms Library (bottom of page) or at <https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/ngc-publication-release-fillable.pdf>. The release form is not included in the three-page limit.
 - C. Entries have a 3-page limit and must be single sided. The Application Cover form and the Publications Release form are NOT included in the 3-page limit. Exceptions to three-page limit: #10 Yearbook & #14 Membership Awareness.
 - D. Binders, folders, sheet protectors and staples are no longer allowed (paper clips suggested).
7. **Certificates:** Will be awarded to 1st and 2nd place winners.
8. **Cash Awards:** Are provided by sponsors, whose names will be published each year. Cash awards will be for designated awards only. First place winners scoring 90 and above, except #8 Membership Increase, which is not point based, are eligible to receive cash awards. Yearbook winners must have a minimum score of 95.
9. **Special Awards:** May be offered to individuals but must be approved by the AFGC President. Contact Awards Chair.
10. **Size Categories:** Are only applicable within AFGC for #10 Yearbook and #14 Membership Awareness but do apply at the SCR and the NGC. Small 1-20 Members; Medium 21-50 Members; Large 51+ Members.
11. **Scale of Points (Scoring Rubric):** Used for AFGC, SCR and NGC. Exceptions: #10 Yearbook and Bravo, which have their own scoring rubric, and #14 Membership Awareness.

Presentation : 5 pts.: Cover sheet included with all sections completed (2), adheres to page limit unless other size specified in award description (2), application neat and concise (1).

Achievement: 65 pts.: Meets NGC mission/goals (6), scope of project defined (4), need identified (7), benefit to target (members, recipients, community, etc.) (10), accomplishment of goals (8), comprehensiveness of work (6), activities to attain goals explained (8), evaluation of goals reached (4), educational (3), prior planning (4), very brief history if continuing project (give full credit if not a continuing project) (3), other (2).

Participation: 15 pts.: % of member participation from total size possible (may include any type of support given) (12), involvement of others (community, government agencies, professionals, youth, facility residents, others) (3).

Record or Documentation: 15 pts.: Clear, well-labeled, neatly attached photos when applicable (4), landscape plan when applicable (give full credit if plan not applicable) (4), financial report (5), other (letters of appreciation, community awards, publicity, etc.) (2).

12. SCR Award Entries:

A. Follow SCR Award Guidelines, available on the SCR website, www.scrclub.org.

The NGC Award Application Cover **MUST** be used for SCR entries. The NGC cover sheet can be found at <https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/awards-app.pdf>.

B. Enter the appropriate SCR award name and number. Write SCR in the upper right-hand corner. If submitting a Yearbook award application, attach a 3x5 inch card which contains the Award Name, Name of Club, City, District, Club Size, Number of Members, Name, address, telephone number and email of current club president, and date State and District dues were paid.

C. Submit SCR Adult Award entries to AFGC Awards Chair by January 1st. Adult awards are not progressive from AFGC to SCR. Youth awards are progressive from AFGC to SCR and will be forwarded by the appropriate Youth chair.

D. SCR Flower Show Achievement Awards will follow NGC Handbook for Flower Show, Revised 2017 requirements.

13. NGC Award Entries:

A. Follow the NGC Award Guidelines, available on the NGC website www.gardenclub.org.

B. The NGC Application Cover Form **MUST** be used. Many NGC awards have their own specific Scoring Rubric. Refer to the correct one. The NGC Award Application Cover can be found at <https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/awards-app.pdf> Note: If more than one club submits an award application for the same award, the AFGC chair will score the application using the NGC Scoring Rubric and submit the winning application. NGC will score all other applications.

C. All NGC award applications **MUST** be submitted electronically. Exceptions: FD-1, MAE-1, MAE-3, MAE-4, and SR-

4. Only PDF or WORD format accepted.

D. All NGC award entries **MUST** be submitted to the AFGC Awards Chair by January 1st. **Entries not received by the deadline will not be considered.** No adult award is progressive from AFGC or SCR to NGC.

E. NGC Flower Show Achievement Awards will follow NGC Handbook for Flower Show, Revised 2017 www.gardenclub.org

B. AFGC ADULT AWARDS

#1. CIVIC ACHIEVEMENT, \$25, is awarded to a club for the completion of an outstanding civic gardening project. This project may cover one, two or more years, with significant work in the current award year. Entries must show before and after pictures. (SCR CE-1, NGC Award Section CE)

#2. COMMUNITY GARDENS, will be awarded to the most outstanding overall community garden project providing public education in the garden, or growing food for civic use. (NGC Award Section CE)

#2-A. \$25, Completion of a new community garden.

#2-B. \$25, Continuing participation in a community garden.

#3. CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION, \$25, may be given for best effort on a previously completed beautification project, providing continuing maintenance. Application should show significant work in the current award year. (SCR CE-5, NGC Award Section CE)

#4. SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT, \$25, to be awarded for the most outstanding one-time public event furthering NGC objectives and/or projects. (NGC #CE-5)

#5. BUILD UP- REACH OUT, \$25, is given to any club sponsoring a new AFGC affiliated adult club or any type of junior garden club, K-12. Minimum of 10 members, verifiable by roster for adults, or pictures (without faces) for juniors. Include new club objectives in application. The district of the sponsoring club should sponsor this award with the proper donation.

#6. GARDEN THERAPY, \$25, presented for the best overall scope of projects with residents of nursing or assisted living homes, challenged youth or adults, prisons, low-income housing, etc. This work should be

horticultural, environmental or conservation related with hands-on projects. Participation by residents should be clearly evident on application. Include work/ project dates, project topics and number of residents involved. (NGC #G-3)

#7. CONSERVATION CONCERNS, \$25, will be presented to the club with the best overall activities for conservation or natural resource development such as erosion control, reforestation, water conservation etc. May be projects or education. (NGC Awards Section EC)

#8. MEMBERSHIP INCREASE, \$25 each, may be awarded annually to the two clubs with the greatest percentage increase in membership. Provide member roster as of December 31st of the previous year (A) and a membership roster as of application date (B).
(Calculated by: $(B-A)/A \times 100\%$ = Percentage of increase (move decimal place to right 2/10th/s))

#9. NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK, \$50, may be awarded for the best promotion of National Garden Week and NGC objectives. The entry should show how the community was made aware of projects throughout the week. Include any local, state, or national proclamations. (SCR MAE-5, NGC #MAE-5)

#10. YEARBOOK, \$100 divided, may be presented to the winner in each of three size categories. This award can be based on a calendar year or a club year. Check Presidents' Packet or AFGC website for Yearbook Guidelines, Scoring Rubric (Scale of Points) and size categories.
(SCR # 4 & 5, NGC no longer offers this award.)

#11. JUNIOR GARDENERS, presented for the most outstanding work with a junior garden group, Pre-K-12 eligible. (SCR YW-1, NGC Award Section YW)

#11-A. \$25, Awarded to an AFGC member club providing a year-long program promoting the widest range of horticulture, environmental and/or conservation education to the same group of youth. Indicate grade/s, meeting dates, list of programs and number of youth involved. Hands-on participation by students must be evident.

#11-B. \$25, Presented to an AFGC member club sponsoring a youth group having completed the best single horticultural or gardening project. Indicate grade/s, work dates, number of youth participating, along with before and after pictures. The majority of the work done by the youth should be evident.

#12. LANDSCAPE DESIGN, \$25, is presented to a club for the creation of a specific type of garden, i.e., natives, sensory, container, historic, edible, etc., on civic grounds. The judging is based on quality of design, arrangement of plant material and the choice of functional plants for easy maintenance. A landscape design plan is required but does not have to be professionally drawn. (See NGC Awards Sections CE & G)

#13. ARBOR DAY, \$25, may be presented for the best dedication ceremony for the planting of trees at civic buildings, parks, schools, public green spaces, etc. The application must show community involvement (invite your mayor, etc.) and public education on the importance of trees. Tree planting may be part of a new or continuing project. (SCR #1)

#14. MEMBERSHIP AWARENESS, \$25, will be awarded to the 1st Place entry, 80 points or above, in each of three size categories. Awarded for the best effort to increase public visibility and/or increase membership. See NGC Award MAE-1, page 31-32 for more information on this award. Printed materials, materials for electronic publication and publicity may be attached in their entirety to the application and are not counted as part of the 3-page limit. (NGC #MAE-1)

#15. TURTLE AWARD, \$25, is awarded to the oldest member being a first-time winner of a blue ribbon in the design division of a Standard Flower Show sponsored by a member club/s. The Entry Card must be completely filled out, signed by one judge and chair of the show, and accompanied by the application form. Questions 1-6 on the application do not apply, but birth date and year of entrant must be included.

#16. JUDGES' COUNCIL FLOWER SHOW ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS. Open to AFGC member clubs. The AFGC state flower show is not eligible for this award. (NGC Award Sections FD & FS)

#16-A. \$25, to be presented to a garden club sponsoring a Small Standard or Standard Flower Show (less than 25 members.) Include pictures of the show in the three-page award application and submit a copy of the schedule.

#16-B. \$25, to be presented to a garden club sponsoring a Small Standard or Standard Flower Show (more than 25 members). Include pictures of the show in the three-page award application and submit a copy of the schedule.

#16-C. \$25, awarded to the club with the most innovative flower show staging. Include pictures of the staging in the three-page award application and submit a copy of the schedule.

#16-D. \$25, awarded for the most well-prepared Small Standard or Standard Flower Show Schedule, using NGC Scoring Rubric. Include pictures of the show in the three-page award application and submit a copy of the schedule. (SCR # 2. 3)

#17. FLORAL DESIGN, presented to the club with the best program or workshop teaching floral design to club members and/or the public. AFGC & NGC Flower Show Schools and Symposiums are not eligible. (SCR #11, NGC Award Section FD)

#17-A. \$25, by a floral design study group.

#17-B. \$25, by general garden club.

#17-C. \$25, individual with the most Blue Ribbons in Design.

#18. LITTER BUG BEWARE, \$25, is awarded for the best litter and/or recycling project/s to benefit a community. Community involvement encouraged. (See SCR #10, NGC Award Section EC)

#19. POLLINATORS, \$25, awarded for conducting the most comprehensive and effective project on pollinating insects and/or animals, such as habitat or migratory route protections, public education, or establishment of pollinator gardens at a community site, etc. (NGC Award Section EC)

#20. HERITAGE, \$25, is presented to the club having the best garden preservation project or decorating project of a historic property. Property may be of local, state, or national importance. May be either a new or continuing project. Plantings nor decorations are required to be of the period but should harmonize with the building's style. (NGC #CE-6, CE-9)

#21. Website/Social Media, may be presented for the most outstanding club website or social media page promoting the applicant and NGC objectives. At least a portion of the site/page must be available to the public. Include website/media address, who maintains the site, frequency of updates and cost of the site. Ease of navigation will be considered.

#26-A. \$25, for website. (NGC MAE-2)

#26-B. \$25, for social media page.

#22. BRAVO, \$25, is given to one outstanding member each year who willingly and frequently says "okay" to committee service, shares knowledge with other club members for the good of the club and quietly serves without accolades. Club presidents will nominate by including up to one page describing the nominee's contributions with the application. *Bravo has its own rubric*

#23. INDIVIDUAL SERVICE may be given each year in each district to a member who has made a clear and outstanding contribution specifically to their district. Anyone may nominate by including up to one page describing the nominee's contributions with the application cover. The District Director will select the winner if more than one nomination is received for that district.

#24. BLUE STAR MEMORIAL, *(New Award for 2024)* \$100.00 is awarded to the Garden Club that establishes or maintains the grounds of a Blue Star Memorial marker. Entry must show original photo and date (if available) or photo from when Garden Club started maintaining the marker. Must submit photo of current beautification, date, describe the history and plan for project, member participation or community involvement, funds raised and spent (if appropriate).

#26. PRESIDENTIAL CITATIONS: The AFGC president may choose to give citations in appreciation for service and/or projects.

C. AFGC YOUTH AWARDS: Open to Junior, Intermediate, High School or College age gardeners. All applications which include photographs of youth under 18, **MUST** be accompanied by a signed Publications Release Form for each young person. This form may be found in President's Packets, at www.gardenclubs.org in the Forms Library (bottom of page) or at <https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/ngc-publication-release-fillable.pdf>. Release Forms are not included in the 3-page limit. **Specific rules for each youth award will be found in the Presidents' Packet or online.** All AFGC Youth Award 1st Place winners are progressive to SCR and/or NGC and will be forwarded by the AFGC Youth chair. Keep copies for your files, as entries will not be returned.

#26. BIRD POSTERS: Open to grades 4-8. Drawings are judged for correct markings, shape, color, neatness, and creativity. Awards up to \$100 (\$20 per award winner).

#27. POETRY: Open to grades K-9. Poems with an environmental theme are judged for content, creativity, and style.

#28. RECYCLED SCULPTURE: Open to grades 4-8. Creative use of recycled materials. Photos submitted, not sculpture.

#29. SMOKEY BEAR OR WOODSY OWL POSTERS: Open to grades 1-5. Drawings judged for child's basic understanding of wildfire prevention or environmental conservation principles, quality, and creativity. Sponsor: Greenkeepers Garden Club, up to \$100 (\$20 per award winner).

#30 AFGC SCHOLARSHIP, \$1000 or more, may be awarded to offer financial aid to a college student pursuing a master's degree in Horticulture, Landscape Design, Environmental Concerns, Botany, Agricultural Education, and/or other allied subjects. See www.gardenclub.org for full details and application form. The AR Scholarship winner will be sent to NGC for further competition. **Applications are submitted to the AFGC Scholarship Chair by February 1st.** Sponsor : AFGC