

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION AWARD GUIDELINES (2025-2026) Revised 8/2025

SCR Awards Chairman, Gwen DeWitt - (cell) 351-813-9936

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PLEASE STUDY NGC Award requirements for 2025-2026 on the NGC website.

SCR requirements may be found on the SCR website.

Your state publication or website will have your state award requirements. Double check the deadlines, states may have different deadlines.

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Only federated garden clubs, members of federated garden clubs, and groups of federated clubs in good standing are eligible to apply or sponsor applicants.
2. **AWARDS YEAR:** Jan. 1st through Dec. 31 of the same year constitutes an Award Year.
3. **SUBMIT AWARDS TO: All Awards** to NGC and SCR must be submitted through your State Awards Chairman. (Check your state requirements, some states require submission through the District Awards Chairman.) For State Awards, check your state awards document for submission information, it varies with each state, some awards are submitted through the district and others are submitted to specific chairman for specific awards, others go directly to your State Awards Chairman.
4. **ENTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR BOTH NGC AND SCR AWARDS:** Awards that are eligible for both NGC and SCR Awards require two separate entries prepared by the club, indicating at the top of the Award Application, which entry is for NGC and which entry is for SCR.
5. **DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ENTRIES TO NGC:** Adult NGC Award entries are submitted to NGC Awards Chairman (deadline Jan. 15), **by the State Awards Chairman** (check your state deadline for submission to your State Awards Chairman), with a listing of entries attached. **(SCR does not send Adult Award-winning entries to the NGC level). NGC rules state that entries must be sent to NGC by State Awards Chairman.**
6. **DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ENTRIES TO SCR:** Adult SCR Award entries must be judged in each state. Winning entries are then submitted **by the State Awards Chairman** (check your state deadline for submission to your State Awards Chairman), with a listing of entries attached, to the SCR Awards Chairman (deadline January 30).
7. **ENTRY FORMS ARE FOUND ON THE NGC WEBSITE. PLEASE, use these forms for each Entry. Write SCR in the upper right corner for SCR Awards.** Only one [1] 1st place winner from each state in each Contest. Please submit [your] Judging sheets for the entry. Competing state entries will be judged for SCR using the NGC scale of points.
8. **LENGTH OF ENTRY:** An entry may not exceed 3 pages, using front of paper only. Publications are the exception. No plastic sheet protectors allowed. No loose materials. Keep a copy of the entry for your club records. Entries will be given to SCR Director at the Conventions.

9. **CONTEST winners in your state for Youth: Poetry, Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Posters, Bird Posters, Sculpture, etc., are sent to appropriate SCR Youth Chairmen, listed on the SCR Website. DO NOT send to SCR Awards Coordinator.**

The SCR Youth Award Coordinator will send appropriate entries to the national level and a list of winners to the Awards Chairman to enter in the Awards Book.

10. **CONTINUING PROJECTS: *Entries must document and show significant work in the current awards year.***

11. **AWARDS: Monetary awards are offered only for designated awards. Only 1st place winners scoring 90 or above on the scoring rubrics or Scoring Sheets are eligible to receive cash awards. SPONSORS are listed with the Contest.**

12. **CATEGORIES: Clubs and states are in categories according to the number of dues paying members. They are as follows:**

For the 2021 Awards year and beyond, the NGC Awards were changed in several categories. To align with the NGC categories, the size groups will change to reflect the NGC changes.

Award size groups are:

	Clubs	States
Small	1-20 members	1-55 clubs
Medium	21-50 members	56-149 clubs
Large	51+ members	150 + clubs

Club Yearbooks will use the same groups as listed above.

All NGC Contests and Judging requirements may be viewed and downloaded from NGC website

See the NGC Awards Program for scoring rubrics for Awards!!!

SCR 1st place, \$25 AWARD to a Single Club

NGC also divided the awards into 8 different categories to make it easier to identify available awards. SCR Award categories will follow the same categories as NGC. All of the awards are eligible for both NGC and SCR except those awards beginning with SCR and they are only available through the SCR. Remember SCR does not send Awards to NGC, only the State Awards Chairman sends Awards to NGC.

The NGC Award Application Cover Sheet can be found by clicking on the link herein. Use it for both NGC and SCR Awards.

Even though some of the Awards require specific scoring rubrics, the NGC Awards Program General Scoring Rubric can be found by clicking on the link herein.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENTS

CE-1 COMMUNITY CONCERNS: *Sponsored by:* Carolyn McCabe, Jim & Linda Lawson given for the most outstanding community or religious garden project that provides green space, and/or opportunities for social gatherings, meditation, beautification, education, recreation or the growing of food.

CE-5 CIVIC DEVELOPMENT: *Sponsored by Isabel Olsen, Suzy Andrego* given for the most outstanding beautification project in a city, town, or neighborhood done on a continuous basis or as a special onetime event. Habitat for Humanity Projects as well as Decoration of Historic Buildings may be included.

CE-8 LANDSCAPE DESIGN: *Sponsored by: Suzy Andrego* given for the most significant contribution in designing a landscape plan, planning the project, and carrying out the plan.

SCR-1 ARBOR DAY DEDICATION: *Sponsored by: Rose Schultz, Suzy Andrego* presented for a dedication ceremony for the planting of tree/s. May be part of a new or continuing project, e.g., public buildings, highway or esplanade beautification, schools, other civic buildings. Application must show community involvement and education of the public about importance of trees. Invite some of the following: Mayor, public officials, Park & Recreation officials, FF A youth, Scouts, etc. Special consideration will be given to more unusual or unique dedications.

ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION:

EC-1 PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT: *Sponsored by: Melanie Spence, April Pratt* given to those conservation activities deemed overall excellent and well-balanced. Includes activities such as conservation education, legislative activities, conservation field projects, natural resource development such as watershed, erosion control, reforestation, wildlife refuge, etc.

FLORAL DESIGN:

FD-2 FLORAL DESIGN PROGRAM: *Sponsored by: Dallas Fl. Show Judges Founders Group, Designers with Flair GSD* given for the most outstanding program or workshop (exclusive of NGC Schools and Symposiums) teaching floral design to club members and/or the public. Here is the FD-2 Floral Design Program Specific Scoring Rubric.

FLOWER SHOW ACHIEVEMENT:

SCR-2 SINGLE GARDEN CLUB FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE: *Sponsored by: Judy Grotts* presented for a well-prepared Flower Show Schedule. To be judged by NGC #29H Scale of Points for Evaluating Flower Show Schedules.

SCR-3 MULTIPLE GARDEN CLUBS FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE: *Sponsored by Barbara Baker* presented for a well-prepared Flower Show Schedule. To be judged by NGC #29H Scale of Points for Evaluating Flower Show Schedules.

GARDENS:

G-1 CONTAINER GARDENING: *Sponsored by: Sherrie Eoff* given for the most outstanding container or containers of fruits, vegetables, herbs, flowers, or a combination thereof. Here is the G-1 Specific Scoring Rubric.

MEMBERSHIP ADVANCEMENT & EDUCATION:

MAE-3 DIGITAL MEDIA PRESENTATION: *Sponsored by: Clara Bishop* given for the best presentation recorded and submitted on any type of digital media supporting any of the following NGC objectives: History/ Archives, private or public Garden Tours, Flowers Shows, Projects, Programs, or other. Here is the MAE-3 Specific Scoring Rubric.

MAE-4 PUBLICATION AWARD: presented for outstanding publications by (A) a club or (B) group of clubs or state. Printed publications or those prepared for electronic distribution are acceptable entries. **Newsletters or state Publication/bulletins must be published 3 times per year or more.**

MAE-4 A-(1) Newsletter: (1-3 pages) Single Club *Sponsored by Carolyn McCabe* (1-3 pages)

MAE-4 A-(2) Newsletter: (1-3 pages) Group of Clubs *Sponsored by Gwen DeWitt*

MAE-4 B-(1) Newsletter: (3-12 pages) Single Club *Sponsored by Rose Schultz*

MAE-4 B-(2) Newsletter: (3-12 pages) Group of Clubs *Sponsored by Gwen DeWitt*

MAE-4 A-(3) State Publication/Bulletin: (example-Gardener publications) *Sponsored by April Pratt*

MAE-4 E-(1) Manual or Handbook: A Single Club *Sponsored by Betty Edwards*

MAE-4 E-(2) Manual or Handbook: B Group of Clubs *Sponsored by Betty Edwards*

MAE-4 F-(1) Brochure: Single Club *Sponsored by Shirley Tetreault*

MAE-4 F-(2) Brochure: Group of Clubs *Sponsored by Rose Knight*

MAE-4 G-(1) "How-to Tips for Gardeners" Single Club *Sponsored by Suzy Andrego*

MAE-4 G-(2) "How-to Tips for Gardeners" Group of Clubs *Sponsored by Christine Longthorp*

Here is the MAE-4 Specific Scoring Rubric.

MAE-5 NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK: *Sponsored by: Nancy Rana* given for the best overall promotion of National Garden Week. Entry to show community awareness throughout the entire week and include local and/or state proclamations.

\$25 will be presented to the 1st place winner in each category of (1) and (2).

SCR-4 YEARBOOK AWARD: Small Club: *Sponsored by Gwen DeWitt*; **Medium Club:** *Sponsored by Gwen DeWitt*; **Large Club:** *Sponsored by Gwen DeWitt*. The club size categories for Yearbooks are listed on page 2 of this guide. State Awards Chairman sends one Yearbook winner from each category to SCR Awards Chairman for judging. Judging will use the Yearbook Scoring Sheets that apply to your club rating and size found at the end of this document. **(Revised 7/2023)**

SCR-5 OUTSTANDING YEARBOOK THEME: *Sponsored by Rose Knight* presented to a club for the most creative use of a theme carried throughout the programs for the year, incorporating the objectives of NGC. Yearbook must be submitted that was in effect for the awards year. Creativity and originality of theme will be considered. Correlation between the theme and all club programs, projects, activities should be evident.

SERVICE & RECOGNITION:

SR-6 MEMBER AWARD OF HONOR recognizes those NGC members, whose volunteer efforts, during a period of five years have made outstanding contribution/s to club and community in one or more of the following areas: *Civic Development, Conservation, Design, Horticultural Therapy, Horticulture, Landscape Design, Youth Activities, All Around Excellence*. **ELIGIBILITY:** Any member of a state garden club, who has never served as a member of the NGC Board of Directors, including State Presidents. Guidelines and the Member Award of Honor Application Form may be found on the NGC Website, www.gardenclub.org. Complete the form, send to your **state Awards Chairman by January 1st**. State Awards Chair sends the application to the **SCR Awards Chair by February 1st**. The SCR Awards Chair will submit to the NGC Chairman by **February 20th**. The winning person in our region will receive an invitation to attend a function at the NGC Convention, and will be presented a certificate, a pin, and the book of evidence that was submitted. All four of our states are encouraged to send in an application for this award.

SCR SWEEPSTAKES AWARD: *Sponsored by Sarah McReynolds* This award is given to the winner of the most First Place awards received at the Awards Banquet during the SCR convention. You do not prepare an application for this award. It is determined by the SCR Awards Chairman.

YOUTH WORK:

YW-1 YOUTH PROGRAM AWARD of \$50: *Sponsored by Jim & Linda Lawson* presented to a club best meeting the challenge of youth during the awards year. Must show direct work with youth, e.g., series of environmental meetings; Adopt a School; a complete program for youth (nature hikes, Flower Show, sponsored contest), or through High School, Intermediate or Junior Gardener activities.

SCR-7 OUTSTANDING JUNIOR GARDEN CLUB YEARBOOK THEME: *Sponsored by Gwen DeWitt* presented to a club for the most creative use of a theme carried throughout the programs for the year, incorporating the objectives of NGC. Yearbook must be submitted that was in effect for the awards year. Creativity and originality of theme will be considered. Correlation between the theme and all club programs, projects, activities should be evident.

This NEW Award may be the Yearbook for a Junior Garden Club, or those programs included in the sponsoring Garden Club's yearbook.

Herbs, By Sherie Clarkson, Chair

SCR Special AWARD - Garden with Herbs

This is a special award that may be awarded to a single club for the most creative landscape using herbs as the main element. Include a list of herbs used and their uses. Can be a theme garden or a container garden. This is a special award with \$50 for the best container garden. Sherie Clarkson, Herb Gardening Chair.

SCR YEARBOOK AWARD SCORING SHEETS

Submit one copy to District Yearbooks Chair by November 1
District and State will grade and present awards according to Club Size and Rating

May be awarded for outstanding yearbooks in each of the following categories, determined by the number of members, including Life Members, on whom NGC dues are paid. Yearbooks may be accepted for competition on the calendar year or the club year (same yearbook may be submitted only one time in an awards year). Please include an NGC Application form and a 3x5 inch card with all information required. State Awards Chairman submits Yearbook winners in each category to South Central Regional Awards Chairman.

Three by Five (3x5) inch cards should contain: Award name, Name of Club, City, District, Club rating (size), Number of members, Name, address, telephone No. & Email of current club President, & dates of State and District dues were paid.

BRONZE, SILVER AND GOLD CLUBS - SCORING SHEET

SCALE OF POINTS

- Book Structure:** Practical, convenient size for membership, durable, neat. Yearbooks may be stapled, spiral, or 3-ring binders. Material be well spaced with ample margins, and font size suitable for members to read. **2**
- Cover:** Include name of club, town, state organization, year, and an appealing design. If 3 ring binder cover is used, substitute with paper cover and include required information listed above and so note. **2**
- Title Page:** Include name of club, town, state organization, year, number of dues paying members, and affiliated organizations (district, region, NGC, other). If state and national dues are paid on associate/inactive/honorary members, they are counted in total membership.
- Table of Contents:** Number the yearbook pages and list topics on Contents Page.
- Subsequent Pages:** In any order most useful to members and best fit for page placement. **2**
- Information in a club yearbook should be in logical order. National and State information does not have to be in front. **1**
- Membership Roster:** Complete mailing addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses (if applicable). Avoid crowding. **2**
- List of Club Officers and committee Chairmen** **1**
- NGC Information:** Name of NGC President, the theme of the administration and a referral to the NGC website for further information. **DO NOT** add Presidents home address or phone #. **1**
- Other Information:** Name of Region Director, Theme of Region Director and referral to the Region website and to the State website along with State President and theme, District Director and theme. **2**
- Calendar of Events:** List dates and locations for the district/state/region/national meetings and events to encourage members to attend and to eliminate the setting of conflicting dates. **2**
- Programs:** Topics should cover a variety of NGC goals and objectives such a **Birds, Blue Star Memorials, Butterflies, Conservation, Environment, Floral Design, Horticulture therapy, Horticulture, Design, etc.**

BRONZE, SILVER AND GOLD CLUBS, (cont.)

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|---|----|
| 1. Meets minimum number of meetings required by state. (7 meetings) | 4 |
| 2. List date and time of meeting, Location with address. | 4 |
| 3. List name of speaker/s, qualifications (brief), program title | 4 |
| 4. Variety of program topics (theme not required) | 14 |
| (A) Variety of styles of programs (lecture, tours, etc.) | 13 |
| (B) Variety of speakers (specialists, members, etc.) | 14 |

Projects: Projects involve actual membership participation that benefits the community and furthers NGC Goals and Objectives. Some Ways and Means projects (sale of bulbs, bedding plants, Herbs, etc.) may help to beautify the community as well as produce revenue for clubs. Some Ways and Means projects may help promote NGC Member Services as well as publicize our organization and goals. Certain social activities may lead to membership increase as stated in descriptions.

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| 1. List continuing and new projects (a club is not required to have new projects). | 15 |
| 2. Give brief word description of projects: Include location, name of chairman, how members participate, list of donations if applicable, inkind donations if applicable, plans for maintenance if applicable, etc. | 15 |
| 3. NGC Mission Statement. List of Life Members, District, State, NGC awards won the previous year. | 2 |
| 4. Options: Clubs could fill available space. Some clubs include bylaws, budget, former Presidents. Club Theme. If theme is used, it should be evident throughout the book. Themes may be interpreted with monthly program topics and or titles, graphics, quotes. Projects do not need to be limited to theme. | |

TOTAL POINTS

100

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TGC YEARBOOK FOR GREEN RATED GARDEN CLUBS

Submit one copy to District Yearbook Chairs by November 1

A State award may be presented for Green Rated Garden Club yearbook. Green rated Clubs are not required to have Projects and Activities; points are not deducted if none are included.

SCALE OF POINTS

FORMAT

Book structure:	15
Practicability: convenient size, durability, neatness.	3
Cover: Name of club, town, state, year, (design optional); if permanent type binder cover is used, substitute paper cover for competition.	2
Title Page: Name of club, town, state, year, number of members.	4
Subsequent Pages: Name of NGC and State Presidents, Regional President, District Director Council President, and their e-mails; club officers and Chairmen; Club membership roster with complete mailing addresses, zip codes and phone numbers; Calendar of events (other than regular meetings). Note DO NOT put Address or Phone # of National President in your listing.	6

PROGRAM CONTENT **85**

Goals for ideal club program: Study and activity on some NGC objectives such as birds, Blue Star Memorials, Civic Development, Conservations, Flower Shows, Garden Therapy, Ecoteen/ Ecoteer/ Ecotot Gardening, Horticulture, Landscape Design, Legislation, Litter Control, Roadside Development, World Gardening, etc. Club Meetings.

At Least 6 Meetings a Year. Give information; when date of meeting, place of meeting. Who is speaker, their title, specialty, and subject. Roll Call, exhibits, social activities optional. Tours can be meetings.

TOTAL POINTS **100**

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AFFILIATE GARDEN CLUBS

Submit one copy to District Chairs by November 1

A state award may be presented for the yearbook of an affiliate club

SALE OF POINTS

FORMAT 15

Book Structure

Practicability: Convenient size, durability, neatness. 3

Title Page: Name of club, town, state, year, number of members. 2

Subsequent Pages: Name of NGC and State Presidents, Regional President, District Director, Council President, and their e-mails; Plant Society officers (if applicable) club officers and Chairmen; Club membership roster with complete mailing addresses, zip codes and phone numbers; Calendar of events (other than regular meetings). DO NOT put Phone # or address of National President in your listing. 10

PROGRAM CONTENT 85

Goals for the Ideal club program: Study and activity of main interest of the affiliate, (specific Plant, specific purpose of the organization) should include one program or portions of programs on a NGC Objective such as Birds, Blue Star Memorials, Civic Development, Conservations, Flower Shows, Garden Therapy, Gardening, Horticulture, Landscape Design, Legislation, Litter Control, Roadside Development, World Gardening, etc.

Club meetings: At Least 7 Meetings a Year. Give information; date of meeting, place of meeting. Speaker, their title, specialty, and subject. Roll Call, exhibits, social activities, optional. Tours can be meetings.

TOTAL POINTS 100

CLUB OF JUDGES, COUNCIL OF JUDGES OR CONSULTANTS

Submit one copy to District Chairs by November 1

A state award may be presented for the yearbook of Judges, Council of Judges or
Consultants

SALE OF POINTS

FORMAT:	10
Book structure: Practical, durable neat. May be stapled, spiral, or 3 ring binder. Material well placed with ample margins and font size suitable for members to read.	2
Include name of organization, state, year and appealing design.	2
Page: Include name of organization, state, number of members, affiliation. Including NGC, Region, State, other.	3
Table of Contents: Number the pages and list the topics with respective page numbers.	3
Subsequent Pages: in any order most useful and best fit for page placement.	
Organizational Information:	90
List Officers and Committee Chairmen (club affiliations optional)	10
National and Regional Information:	10
List name of NGC President, Region Director and State President, List their websites. DO NOT list address or phone # of National President.	
Calendar of Events:	10
Include list of National, Regional and State Conventions, schools and special events.	
Policies and Objectives:	10
Include policies and objectives of organization, (bylaws, History and budget are optional).	
Member Information:	10
Include membership roster with complete addresses, e-mail, telephone numbers, status, refresher dates. Club affiliations optional.	
Projects:	20
List projects as continuing or new, Including name of chairman, Location and description of project, sponsored courses, donations.	
Meetings/Programs:	20
List meetings, include date, time and place of meeting. Give title of program, speaker with brief qualifications. Describe program as workshop, tour, panel, etc. Options: No points given. Mission Statement, Former Presidents.	
TOTAL POINTS	100

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