



FGCN Revised Rules and Guidelines for State Awards 2025

Deadline Dates for Awards Submission:

All applications must be sent by March 10th by the clubs or club member to the individual FGCN state chairman named below. Entries received later may not be judged. Individual state chairmen must report their awards to State Awards Chairman Christine Martin by March 31st. Please note: awards may be sent earlier than the due date but NOT later than the due date.

AWARDS YEAR:

Generally for projects, programs, and activities, Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 of the prior year; with some exceptions as noted in scrapbooks, yearbooks, and youth. Certificates and other awards will be presented at the Awards Banquet of the State Annual Meeting. Your submitted materials will be displayed at that time and you are responsible for them afterward.

APPLICATIONS: Open to all FGCN garden clubs and in some cases to individual club members. A FGCN Application Form may be used. A copy of the form is on the next page. Give the State Award number & name of award you are applying for, and name & town of your club. If a sheet or sheets of paper is/are the application, put the State Award number and name, and the name & town of your club at the top of the first sheet. Pictures should be well identified and described. A project or activity may be eligible for more than one award; in this case similar (but not identical) applications may be submitted to each, with the text tailored to each. And lastly, be sure to send it to the right individual state Chairman. **Please do not exceed 3 pages (fronts only).**

AWARDS: Awards are given at the State Annual Meeting each year. Monetary awards are given for first, second and third place. Generally, this would be \$25 for first, \$15 for second, and \$10 for third. Monetary awards for Civic Development are based upon the amount set by the FGCM Budget. This amount is \$350. This amount can be divided into first, second and third monetary awards at the discretion of the Civic Development chair.

Youth awards for poetry, sculpture, essay and posters are also divided into first place \$10, second place \$7 and third \$5. At the discretion of the state awards chair, youth award chairs and FGCM Treasurer a monetary award of \$1 can be given to each award submission.

SCALE OF POINTS FOR AWARDS

Presentation 5 points – neat, concise, includes all required information on the application form (3 sheets allowed).

Achievement 65 points – scope of project; need and fulfillment; benefit, accomplishment; comprehensiveness of the work; activities; to attain goals; evaluation of goals reached; educational; prior planning; very brief history if continuing project, financial report; other.

Participation 15 points – size of club; involvement of members, community, government agencies, professionals, youth, residents in facilities, others. Not all of these have to be involved.

Record or Documentation 15 points – supporting data (as applicable), clear, well-labeled and neatly attached before and after photographs; if applicable landscape plan (does not have to be professionally drawn, t), financial report, letters of appreciation, community awards, newspapers/magazine articles (if possible, radio or TV script (if possible), etc. Photocopies are permitted. **Total 100 points**

FGCN Awards Application
Submit to appropriate chairperson.



Award #: _____ **Award Name:**

Submitted by: _____

[Enter name exactly as it should appear on any award received]

Number of members in club: _____

Please complete each topic, if applicable. Use numbering as below when completing form.

1. New project: Yes _____ No _____ Beginning date:

Completion date:

2. Brief summary and objectives of project:

3. Involvement of club members, other organizations, etc.:

4. Project expenses and means of funding:

5. Continuing involvement, follow-up, maintenance:

6. Attach or insert photos, digital photos, and/or landscape plan (does not need to be professionally drawn).

State Awards Summary

- 1. Arboriculture**
- 2. Birds**
- 3. Blue Star Memorial**
- 4. Butterflies**
- 5. Civic Development**
- 6. No Award**
- 7. Environmental Awareness**
- 8. Flower Show**
- 9. Garden Therapy**
- 10. Garden Tours**
- 11. Horticulture**
 - a. small garden**
 - b. large garden**
- 12. No Award**
- 13. Landscape Design**
 - a. Community Landscape Design**
 - b. Home Landscape Design**
- 14. Membership**
 - a. Club Membership**
 - b. District Membership**
- 15. National Garden Week**
- 16. No Award**
- 17. Native Plants/Wildflowers**
- 18. Nebraska Garden News Article**
- 19. Photography**
- 20. No Award**
- 21. Scholarships**
- 22. Scrapbook**
- 23. State Chairman**
- 24. Yearbooks**

Awards listed by State Chair Titles – (numbers identify awards)

Arboriculture –(#1)

FGCN certificate and monetary award may be given for the best tree-planting program by a Garden Club completed from September 1 to August 31 of the preceding year. Award may be given to a club member, garden club, group of garden clubs or other deserving groups for activities of: a) planting the greatest number of trees, b) educational program regarding the importance of trees, c) design, installation of a public arboretum or, d) volunteering in a public arboretum. Scoring: description of project – 65%, participation by other groups –10% , educational value for youth – 9%, supporting data on expenses, pictures – 8%, neatness and effectiveness of presentation – 8%, total 100%. **Chairman: Alice Hemsath**, 110 East 39th Street, Kearney, NE 68847, 308-224-3771, dhemsath@charter.net

Birds – (#2)

FGCN certificate and monetary award may be given for a book of evidence for conducting the most comprehensive and effective project for bird protection and welfare, e.g. sanctuaries, providing food, houses, and promoting law enforcement relative to bird welfare. Indicate the scope and participation from community groups, school children, club members, etc. Scoring based upon National Guidelines. **Chairman: Patty Hancock**, 2525County RD C, Tekamah, NE 68061 402-456-7782

Blue Star Memorial –(#3)

FGCN certificate and monetary award may be awarded for the most outstanding Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker landscaping projects. The marker and landscaping may be part of a highway department rest area maintained by the State. The project may have been continuous, but major landscaping must be completed within two years. The project may be a replacement of a destroyed or long neglected landscape. Awards available to the club doing the most for the project or the District contributing the most. **Chairman: Marcia Crofutt**, 1108 West 11th, Ogallala, NE 69153, 308-284-6795, mcrofutt2allophone.com

Butterflies—(#4)

FGCN certificate and monetary award may be awarded to a member of a Garden Club for conducting the most comprehensive and effective project on butterflies, e.g. habitat protection, protection of migratory routes, public education, establishment of a butterfly garden at school or community site. **Chairman: Kris Thompson**, 1904 Smith Avenue, Plattsmouth, NE 68048, 402-296-6970, beesknees@windstrem.net

Civic Development—(#5)

Awards for distinguished or conservation work making permanent improvement for public benefit, e.g. established sanctuaries, experimental forests, municipal gardens, landscaping public buildings or roadways. Any project that improves or beautifies the community will qualify. Projects that are a new phase or addition to a continuing project will be accepted if documentation, maintenance, repair, replanting of already existing sites is not eligible. **Chairman: Dr. Dale Lindgren**, 9202 Maloney Drive, North Platte, Ne 69101, 308-534-0930, dlindgren1@unl.edu

Environmental Awareness, Energy and Endangered Species—(#7)

FGCN certificate and monetary award may be given for the best program or project on endangered species, legislative activity, outstanding work by an individual member of a garden club, most recycling efforts, conservation projects, environmental project or other emerging issue.

Chairman: Dr. David Lott, 207 West Redwood Drive, North Platte, Ne 69101, 308-221-2072, dlott@unl.edu

Flower Show Awards – (#8)

A certificate and monetary award may be given to the most outstanding educational section in a standard flower show sponsored by an individual club, council, or district of two or more clubs. Pictures must accompany application. In addition, a rosette will be given for a flower show in each National category, if merited. Abide by rules, and consult the Fall issue of the National Gardener for a list of categories.

Chairman: Evelyn Boyd, 630 N 64 RD, Nebraska City, NE 68410, 402-873-5757, mbo2518@windstream.net

Garden Therapy—(#9)

A Certificate and monetary award may be awarded to a club or clubs sponsoring an outstanding program in garden therapy whereby gardens are established to benefit the physically or learning challenged, residents in rest homes or care centers, schools, prisons, lower income housing. This could include barrier free gardening, community gardens, meditation gardens at hospitals, etc.

Chairman: Julie Lester, 6108 Surrey Drive, Omaha, NE 68122-5059, 402-5711274, jlester1274@hotmail.com

Garden Tours—(#10)

FGCN certificate and a monetary award may be given to the club or a club member for a project such as open to the public, open to garden club members only, or a tour of garden club member's gardens, Include publicity, photos, etc. **Chairman: Dianne Keller**, 42199 Drive 746 ,Eustis, NE 69028-3031,308-486-4471,ddkeller@nebnet.net

Horticulture—(#11)

FGCN certificate and a monetary award may be awarded to an individual submitting a Book of Evidence of 3 or 4 pages with a brief summary and/or pictures of their garden, vegetables, fruits and flowers. Include successive and companion plantings and any new cultivar names. There are 2 categories:

#11-A: A SMALLER GARDEN: A garden approximately 12' by 15'. **#11-B: LARGER GARDENS:** A garden approximately 40' by 50'. **Chairman: Del Hemsath**, 110 East 39th Street, E-1, Kearney, NE 68847, 308-367-7172, dhemsath@charter.net

Landscape Design—(#13A & #13B)

#13A: COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE DESIGN AWARD: A certificate and a monetary award to a club for a landscape design project to improve their community. Example: a landscaped community garden, a community feature such as a statue, fountain, park area, or community building, such as a firehouse, police station, library, etc.

#13B: HOME LANDSCAPE DESIGN AWARD: A certificate and a monetary award to a member or members working together to landscape in good design a feature and/or area within a home property. Book of Evidence to include a description of the project: before and after pictures; expenses, number of persons involved; number of hours to complete the project; any publicity with date and name of publication.

Chairman: Alice Hemsath, 110 East 39th Street, E-1, Kearney, NE 68847, 308-224-3771, dhemsath@charter.net

Membership—(#14A & #14B)

All are noncompetitive awards no applications necessary.

#14A: CLUB MEMBERSHIP: FGCM certificate and a monetary award to the club with the greatest percentage of increase in membership.

#14B: DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP: FGCM certificate and a monetary award to the district with the greatest percentage of increased membership. No application necessary as will be based on FGCM membership figures.

Chairman: Lorraine Patrick

National Garden Week—(#15)

National Garden Week is the first full week in June. Participation by every club is requested. Each garden club is asked to set up a gardening with a poster board of pictures from your club activities, gardening pamphlets on different subjects, and the FGCM Information pamphlet at your library, County Extension office, schools, or any civic event. Take pictures setting up, during, and at the event. Have someone at the event at designated times to answer questions and to invite people to attend an event at your garden club. Invite people to your club meetings. Send a report with pictures to FGCM Newsletter Editor Jim Rouch, and a book of evidence to

Chairman: Charlotte Swanson, PO Box 97, Dalton, NE 69131.

Native Plants & Wildflowers—(#17)

FGCN certificate and a monetary award may be given to the club having the most comprehensive wildflower program for the club, such as studies, wildflower tours, planning projects along roadsides and rest areas, entrances to towns, establishing wildflower gardens, establishing outdoor classrooms, nature trails, wildflower walks, or educating the public on the importance of preserving native material. **Chairman: Charlotte Swanson**, P.O. Box 97, Dalton, NE 69131-0097, 308-249-2168, swannson@daltontel.net

Nebraska Garden News Article—(#18)

No application for State award, RMR and NGC have awards for writing including yearbooks, scrapbooks, newsletter, articles for publication, calendars, cookbooks, etc. **Chairman: Jim Rouch**, 939 South 106th Plaza #305, Omaha, NE 68114, 402-651-5569, jim@rouchpartners.com

Photography—(#19)

This award is open to a garden club member, garden club, group of garden clubs, or other individuals. The subject matter should reflect garden club work, and/or State and National objectives. Examples are:

a. Photos

b. Video

c. Power Point presentation, or other digital presentation.

Chairman: Julie Lester, 6108 Surrey Drive, Omaha, NE 68122-5059, 402-571-1274, jlester1274@hotmail.com

Scholarships—(#21)

FGCN certificate and a monetary award may be awarded to clubs giving a scholarship. Furnish information on the amount given, when, to whom, school, and how many years this has been done. **Chairman: Betty Jo Armagost**, 3 Regency place Kearney 68847 armagostbj@gmail.com

Scrapbook—(#22)

FGCN certificates and a monetary award for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place may be given. All scrapbooks should include information from Jan. 1 to Dec. 1 annually, unless your club year differs, in which case the scrapbook should cover the last completed club year. The person preparing the scrapbook must sign inside the back cover. RULES AND POINTS FOR JUDGING SCRAPBOOKS:

Neatness, attractiveness and originality, 15%: Scrapbooks shall measure no less than 9" x 12". Loose-leaf cover shall display club's name. Use both sides of paper with a quarter-inch margin, with the inner margin being larger. Be consistent in whatever you do. Highlight important information. Group projects together according to topics, i.e. all club meetings, yard of the week, etc. Evidence of interesting and worthwhile programs, 50%: Membership participation and speakers. Exhibits at meetings such as horticulture specimens, arrangements, and others relative to programs. Indication of a study of topic from yearbook. Include one complete yearbook at the back of scrapbook. Publicity, etc. Club projects and activities, 35%: Stressing state and national objectives, community projects, tours, etc. Publicity, if any. On pictures, include the names of those in the picture, the date taken, occasion, and place.
Chairman: Chris Martin PO Box 86, Friend, NE 68359 402-540-2241, dzrcc8@yahoo.com

State Chairman—(#23)

This is an award for State Chairmen who give awards. FGCN certificate, and a monetary award presented to the Chairman who has the largest increase in entries from last year. Individual State Chairmen are to give the number of applications received when reporting their award by March 10, to State Awards **Chairman: Chris Martin** PO Box 86, Friend, NE 68359 402-540-2241, dzrcc8@yahoo.com

Yearbooks—(#24)

Send out yearbooks as soon as they are ready. Awards will be for clubs current year, whether January through December, or the prior June through current May, etc. Standard system of ribbons by National Council will be used on the FGNC Certificates: 1st place-90% and above; 2nd place-85% and above; 3rd place-80% and above; Honorable Mention-75% or above. Note: Clubs should send a yearbook to the following State Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary/Historian, Awards Chairman, Award of Excellence Chairman and your District Director. If you wish, you do not need to include covers except to the Yearbook and Awards Chairman, your title pages should be adequate for identification for the other chairman. A monetary award will be presented for the top Yearbook. **Chairman: Julie Lester**, 6108 Surrey Drive, Omaha, NE 68122-5059, 402-571-1274, jlester1274@hotmail.com **YEARBOOKS**—As you prepare your yearbooks for 2020 remember **this scale of points** to submit for the award.

BOOK STRUCTURE 2 POINTS: Practical, convenient size for membership, durable, neat. Yearbooks may be stapled, spiral, or 3 ring binders. Material should be well placed with ample margins, and font size suitable for members to read.

COVER 2 POINTS: Include name of club, town, state organization, year, and appealing design. If 3-ring binder is used, substitute with paper cover and include required information listed above, and so note.

TITLE PAGE 2 POINTS: 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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS 1 POINT: 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. Information in a club yearbook should be in logical order. National and State information does not have to be in front.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER: Complete mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail (if applicable). Avoid crowding. Suggestions to save space, “all area codes are__ and postal codes are__, unless otherwise noted”.

LIST OF CLUB OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN 1 POINT.

NGC INFORMATION 1 POINT: Name of the NGC President, the theme of the administration and a referral to the NGC website for further information.

OTHER INFORMATION 2 POINTS: Name of the Regional Director, theme of the State President and a referral to the State Website.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2 POINTS: List dates and locations for district/state/ regional/national meetings and events to encourage members to attend and to eliminate the setting of conflicting dates.

PROGRAMS: Topics should cover a variety of NGC goals and objectives such as birds, Blue Star Memorials, Butterflies, Conservation, Environmental, Floral Design, Horticulture Therapy, Design, etc.

1. Meets minimum number of times required by state (3 points)
2. List date and time of meeting, location with address (3 points)
3. List name of speaker/s, qualifications (brief), program title (4 points)
4. Variety of program topics (theme not required) (14 points)

