

2) South Central District

South Central District 2025-27 Awards List

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GENERAL INFORMATION

AWARDS YEAR:

January 1 to December 31 annually. A continuing project may include a small amount of history on the project for background, but the majority of the application is to be about work accomplished during the current calendar year. It should be stated clearly anything that is not done during this period.

DEADLINE

The deadline for submitting award applications to District Awards Chairman is DECEMBER 1, unless otherwise stated. Applications for ALL awards (including VFGC, SAR and NGC) will be judged by the District Awards Committee, unless otherwise stated. District winners will be sent via email or surface mail with tracking to the VFGC Awards Chairman, Heidi Sage, 1057 Jacks Shop Rd., Rochelle, VA 22738, hbsage@aol.com by DECEMBER 15 to compete for VFGC, SAR and NGC awards.

ELIGIBILITY

Only VFGC members are eligible to apply for VFGC awards unless otherwise stated in the award description. Members are: member garden clubs, groups of member clubs, and individual members of garden clubs. Junior, Intermediate, and High School Garden Clubs. Individual Youth must be sponsored by a member garden club to be eligible for specific VFGC, SAR and NGC awards.

APPLYING FOR AWARDS Club Awards Chairmen

Application forms are available on the VFGC website www.virginiagardenclubs.org >click on Awards
Current Application form is required. No password is required for the awards info.

There is a three page limit plus the current VFGC/NGC cover sheet; using only the front of the pages. Exceptions noted.

- ❖ When a single project is eligible for more than one award, submitting an exact duplication of the application is not acceptable. A significant change must be evident in the summary regarding the project.
- ❖ Binders and vinyl sheet protectors are not allowed. Exceptions noted.
- ❖ Applications will not be returned.
- ❖ Applications may be submitted electronically or by hardcopy. If submitting a hardcopy, include THREE complete copies of the award application. Keep a fourth copy for your records.
- ❖ Use Times New Roman Font, no smaller than size 10, 12 is preferred.
- ❖ Flower Show Achievement Awards, Publicity Press Books, and Member Award of Honor do NOT use the VFGC award application. For more information see VFGC List of Awards or VFGC website www.virginiagardenclubs.org >click on Awards).

Additional information on applying for awards can be found on the VFGC website www.virginiagardenclubs.org >click on Awards.

These resources include:

- ✓ How to Create an Award Application

- ✓ List of VFGC Awards
- ✓ VFGC/NGC Award Application Coversheet
- ✓ Point Scoring Rubrics to guide creating and judging Awards
- ✓ Additional information on Flower Show Achievement Awards
- ✓ Additional information on Publicity Press Books
- ✓ Additional information on Member Award of Honor
- ✓ Links to the District, SAR and NGC Award Lists
- ✓ All award applications (for District, VFGC, SAR and NGC awards) are to be sent to the District Awards Chairman by December 1. Exceptions noted.

APPLYING FOR AWARDS - District awards chairmen

First place winners in each category must be sent by mail or e-mail to the VFGC Award Chairman (Heidi Sage, 1057 Jacks Shop Rd., Rochelle, VA. 22738, hbsage@aol.com, 540-948-3778) by December 15. Exceptions noted in VFGC List of Awards.

A complete list of award applications from your district must be included with submissions. List is to include VFGC award number, VFGC award name, and submitting club name for each award application.

When submitting award applications by mail, send three copies. Retain a fourth copy for your records.

CATAGORIES BY CLUB SIZE

Some awards specify awards according to club size. Club size is determined by the number of members as of December 1st for whom VFGC dues are paid, including Active, Associate, Inactive, Honorary, etc.

Small Club	20 members or fewer
Medium Club	21 - 50 members
Large club	51 + members
Two or more clubs	(two or more clubs may work together on an award project)

BOOK OF EVIDENCE

A Book of Evidence is required when applying for the following awards:

- a) Flower Show Achievement Awards – see NGC web site for requirements
- b) Publicity Press Book - no limit on number of pages
- c) Member Award of Honor - not to exceed 5 pages, one sided

For additional information on Member of Honor award, see the NGC website Awards Handbook pg. 43 www.gardenclub.org and/or VFGC website www.virginiagardenclubs.org >click on Awards).

SCALE OF POINTS

All awards are judged by a "Point Scoring Rubric". Judging with a Scale of Points allows all clubs to know how their application will be judged before submitting it. It also assures that all applications are judged on the same criteria in a fair and impartial manner. The Point Scoring Rubrics for all VFGC awards can be found on the VFGC website www.virginiagardenclubs.org >click on Awards< and are also found on the NGC website. Where there is specific point score rubrics, they are indicated in red for those award categories.

VFGC SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

SP-1 YOUTH AWARD – READING IS FUN BUT SO IS GARDENING

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club).

Once a class or group of children has selected their favorite book, they should work with the VFGC club members to design a garden to illustrate it.

a. The submission must include the name of the book, a diagram of the proposed garden and a plant list. (for example, if the book chosen is “The Adventures of Peter Rabbit”, the design would be for Mr. McGregor’s garden and list the vegetables to be planted.) Any group of children is eligible, not limited to public school. Please submit by Dec. 1 of 2025 and/or 2026.

b. The same as above but includes an actual garden according to the design and list of chosen plants. In addition, the submission should include pictures of the garden. This award may be for two years of the administration, so not judged until Dec. 1, 2026.

SP-2 FLORAL DESIGN FOR THE COMMUNITY

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for an outstanding program bringing the beauty and hope of flowers to those who are facing challenges including Hospice, assisted living, Meals-on-Wheels, or other locations in the community. This would be for floral arrangements made FOR a community in need, *not with* them. Please submit by Dec. 1 of 2025 and/or 2026.

SP-3 TREX FILM RECYCLING CHALLENGE

\$50 will be offered each year to the overall winner, regardless of club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) size, who collects the most pounds of recyclable plastic film. Complete the VFGC cover sheet/application form and attach a page with the total weight you have collected for the calendar year ending Dec. 1. Please submit by Dec. 1 of 2025 and/or 2026.

SP-4 FIRST FLOWER SHOW

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) who has their first flower show ever through Dec. 1. It may be any type of NGC flower show presented by a single club. The dates the club was founded will be considered. Please submit by Dec. 1 of 2025 and/or 2026.

SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT AWARDS

SC-1 BIRD BUTTERFLY AND WILDLIFE (Birds and Butterflies combined in 2023)

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for conducting the most comprehensive and effective project for bird and butterfly protection and welfare, e.g. sanctuaries, providing food, houses and promoting law enforcement relative to bird welfare as well as habitat protection, protection of migratory routes, public education, establishment of a butterfly garden at a school or community site. Monarch Way Stations may be part of this project. (SAR # 2 or 3 plus NGC # EC-3)

SC-2- ARBOR DAY/ TREE PLANTING (New 2023)

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for the best Arbor Day program or number of trees planted (SAR # 1, possibly NGC EC-5, S-14)

SC-3 ORGANIC GARDENING PRACTICES

\$20 may be awarded to the club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for the most outstanding project emphasizing and employing the use of organic materials and methods in a gardening project or educational activity. **(S-16, NGC # EC-6)**

SC-4 CONSERVATION

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for conservation activities, e. g. education or legislative activity; conservation field project; natural resource development - such as a watershed, erosion control, reforestation, wildlife refuge; overall excellence and well-balanced year's conservation activities. **(S-17, SAR # 5, NGC # EC-1 or EC-2)**

SC-5 WATER

\$20 May be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for the most outstanding project with an emphasis on water conservation and/or clean water. **(S-18; SAR#15, NGC# EC-4)**

SC-6 LITTER/RECYCLING/RECLAMATION

- a) \$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for the most outstanding community project on litter prevention, reclamation and/or recycling, e.g. year-long program, organizing recycling program, establishing community composting site. **(S-19, SAR#17)**
- b) \$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club, Combination clubs) for the most complete promotions of Chucky Chipmunk and the 'STOP Throwing and Start Stowing' anti-litter i.e. poster contest, newsletter, school program.

SC-7 FOOD BANK DONATIONS

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for donating the largest amount of freshly grown food to a food bank, pantry, or other organization providing food to those in need in a community. May involve others: community, government agencies, youth, facility residents. Etc. Provide verification from the recipient of quantity received. See NGC Awards Handbook for point score rubric **(S#20, NGC #CE-3)**

SC-8 FLORAL DESIGN PROGRAM

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for the most outstanding program or workshop teaching floral design to club members and/or the public. Three single sided page limit (plus cover sheet) applies. See NGC Awards Handbook for point score rubric **(NGC # FD-2)**. Note: New in 2023 S-21 may coordinate with SAR 20 A or B, depending on the program

SC-9 CIVIC PROJECTS WITH NATIVE PLANTS

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for establishing wildflower gardens, memorial gardens, or the restoration of historic gardens with emphasis on native plant material to our region. **(S-22, NGC #CE-5)**

SC-10 RECLAIMING UN-USABLE SPACES

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for the most outstanding project in reclaiming an un-usable space. It must be an area that has not been used in the past (an empty lot, an area that has become "a dumping spot, etc.). The project photos must reflect a definite change in the use and look of the space. Please include before and after photos and details of work and location. **(S-23)**

SC-11 CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION/CIVIC ACHIEVEMENT

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for a distinguished civic or conservation work making permanent improvements for public benefit, e.g. establishing sanctuaries,

experimental forests, municipal gardens, landscaping public buildings, etc. No commercial project is eligible. (S-24, SAR # 4; NGC # CE-2)

SC-12 BLUE STAR MEMORIAL LANDSCAPING

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for the most outstanding Blue Star Memorial landscaping projects (highway marker, byway marker, memorial marker). The marker and landscaping may be part of a highway department rest area maintained by the department. 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. (S-25, SAR#14, NGC #CE-7)

SC-13 COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE DESIGN

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for the most outstanding project/significant contribution in planning and planting for: commercial property, church or synagogue, hospital, library, civic center, park, waterfront, etc. Copy of landscape plan must be included in the application. (S-26, SAR #4, NGC # CE-8)

SC-14 ROADSIDE BEAUTIFICATION

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for outstanding, permanent roadside beautification. The program may be continuous, but must have advanced degree of completion prior to making application. Project may be done in stages. (S-27, SAR #11, possibly NGC# CE-4 A or B)

SC-15 PLANT TOGETHER COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

\$20 may be awarded to the club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) having the most outstanding Plant Together project. These projects may involve community clean up, planting a new area, container gardening, or other projects designed to spark an interest in gardening. All projects must involve partnering with other groups in your community. (S-28, NGC # CE-1 A, B, C, or D)

SC-16 HISTORIC PRESERVATION

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for a historic preservation project such as the restoration of a park, a building, and/or garden of importance to local, state, or national heritage. (S-29, SAR #8, NCG #CE-9 A or B)

SC-17 DECORATION OF HISTORIC BUILDING

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for decorating a historic building/house/mansion. Decorations are not required to be of the period of the building, but should be creative, distinctive, and harmonize with the building's style. Designer's choice of all materials within purview of curator, official, or owner of the building. (S-30)

SC-18 HORTICULTURE THERAPY

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for an outstanding program working with the physically or learning challenged in nursing homes, schools, prisons, etc. (S-31)

SC-19 HORTICULTURE THERAPY GARDEN PROJECT

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for establishment of a garden/s to benefit the physically or learning challenged, residents in nursing home, school, prisons, low income housing, Habitat for Humanity, etc. Includes barrier-free garden, accessible gardening, community garden, meditation garden at hospital, etc. (S-32, SAR # 6 or 7, NGC # G-3)

SC-20 MEMBERSHIP

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for the highest percentage of new members (percentage increase based on dues paid between Feb. 1 of the previous year to Jan. 31 of the current year. No list of new members is required. No application is required. The District Treasurer will furnish the names of the clubs with the highest percentage increases for each size group to the SCD Awards Chairman by February 7. The name of the winning club in each size group will be sent to the VFGC Awards Chairman by Feb. 15. **(S-33)**

SC-21 NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for the best overall promotion of National Garden Week. Entry to show community awareness throughout the entire week and may include local and/or state proclamations. **(S-34, SAR#10, NGC #MAE-5)**

SC-22 PLANT A TREE

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) with the most money donated to the Plant a Tree program in the calendar year. Clubs report total dollars donated to the District Plant a Tree Chairman, who reports to the State Plant a Tree Chairman, who then informs the VFGC Awards Chairman. No application form/cover sheet is needed, just club name, size and total money donated. (S-35, SAR#9)

SC-23 GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for the most notable project or projects educating the public on the benefits of gardening for wildlife. Extra points will be given for originality and new ideas. Include the number of members in the club, the percentage of member participating, the approximate number of people educated and how they were notified of the project. **(S-40, NGC # EC-3)**

CLUB AWARDS - PUBLICATIONS AND PROMOTION

SC-30 PUBLICATIONS

A. \$20 may be awarded to an A. club

B. Group of clubs (councils or districts, etc.)

for the entry judged best in each category 1-8. Notices or flyers for onetime events are not eligible. Printed publications or those prepared for electronic distribution are acceptable entries. **(S-42, NGC # MAE E, F, and G)**

Categories:

1. manuals, handbooks (examples: procedural, duties of officers, awards)
2. educational (examples: environmental, landscape, gardening, horticulture therapy)
3. horticulture, design (examples: judging, guide to exhibiting, floral design, mechanics)
4. history
5. membership (examples: brochure, leaflet)
6. calendars
7. cookbooks
8. other
9. Scale of Points for Publications can be found on the VFGC Awards webpage or on the NGC

List of Awards on the NGC website. Submit entry in an envelope with one application form secured to outside and one enclosed inside envelope.

SC-31 CLUB NEWSLETTER

\$20 may be awarded to a district in each category publishing the best newsletter (**S-43, NGC # MAE 4 A through D**; see NGC point score rubric, on VFGC website or NGC handbook pg. 39)

A. Districts 900 members and under

B. Districts over 900 members

New in 2023: Submit only one edition of a newsletter electronically via email to

abylei123@gmail.com. Include cover sheet/application and answer all questions on point score rubric on a separate page

SC-32 CLUB YEARBOOKS

An orange rosette may be awarded to a club for the most outstanding yearbook in each of the following categories: members, including Life Members, on whom VFGC dues are paid. Yearbook must be from current club year. (SAR # 22)

1. Clubs with under 20 members
2. Clubs with 22-29 members
3. Clubs with 30-44 members
4. Clubs with 45-69 members
5. Clubs with 70-99 members
6. Clubs with 100-299 members

Scale of Points for Yearbooks can be found on the VFGC Awards webpage. Complete the top of the Award Application. Do not answer the questions. Firmly clip two copies of the completed application form to the inside front cover. No envelope needed. Send only 1 yearbook. Do not send 3 ring binder. Substitute with paper cover. Mail to District Chairman. NGC no longer judges Yearbooks, VFGC and SAR still do. (SAR#22)

SC-33 FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE

\$20 may be awarded to a **club** (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for the clearest, most accurate, specific and comprehensive flower show schedule for any type of NGC flower show. (**S-45, SAR# 24A**)

SC-34 FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE - TWO OR MORE

\$20 may be awarded to two or more clubs or a council for the clearest, most accurate, specific and comprehensive flower show schedule for any type of NGC flower show. (S-46, SAR# 24B)

The scale of points for Flower Show Schedules can be found on the VFGC Awards webpage or on Pg 306-308 of the Handbook for Flower Shows (2007 edition). As of Jan. 2018 new rules went into effect, found on pages 135-138 of the 2017 edition. Attach copy of the flower show schedule as given to the judges to the award application.

SC-35 WEBSITE

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for the most outstanding website promoting the sponsoring organization and NGC objectives. Include cover sheet/application and answer all questions on point score rubric on a separate page. Provide your website address, who maintains site, how often updated, a cost. Ease of navigation will be considered while judging from the current site. Scale of Points for Websites can be found on the VFGC Awards webpage or on the NGC list of Awards on the NGC website. (**S-47, SAR#21, NGC# MAE-2**)

SC-36 PUBLICITY PRESS BOOKS

A pink rosette may be awarded to winning books of evidence exhibiting quality, quantity and diversity of coverage in the print media promoting garden clubs and NGC goals and objectives. Prepare a Book of Evidence. No limit on number of pages. Complete the necessary information on the NGC Application form and attach to the inside front cover; second form clipped to outside. **(S-48, SAR #23)** Books are to be sent to: VFGC Awards Chairman, Heidi Sage, 1057 Jacks Shop Rd., Rochelle, VA 22738, hbsage@aol.com

Deadline January 15.

- A. Clubs - Small, Medium, Large
- B. Group of clubs, councils, and districts

MEMBER AWARD OF HONOR

Member Award of Honor Certificates may be awarded to one member in each district whose volunteer efforts during a period of five or more years, has made outstanding contributions to club and community, in one or more of the following areas: civic development, horticulture therapy, *youth activities, conservation, landscape design, horticulture, floral design, or all around excellence* Any member of a State Garden club, who has never been a member of NGC Board of Directors, including State Presidents is eligible. Do not use VFGC/NGC award application form. Submit a Book of Evidence of no more than 5 pages (one side only) to District Awards Chairman by December 1st. For more information see the VFGC Awards webpage. Overall winner will be submitted to South Atlantic Region to compete for the Member Award of Honor. **(NGC# SR-4)**

YOUTH AWARDS AND CONTESTS

See the NGC website www.gardenclub.org for complete Youth Contest rules and details. Winners at the district level are sent for state competition. Youth Awards and Contests that require student entries to be sent to state chairmen are due by December 1; the deadline for South Central District entries is November 15.

SC-40 YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

\$20 may be awarded to a **club** (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for the most outstanding project in the field of environmental education involving youth. **(S-38, SAR# Y-1, NGC# YW -8)**

SC-41 YOUTH HORTICULTURE EDUCATION

\$20 may be awarded to a **club** (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for the best promotion of gardening among youth; based on belief that youth should be educated to become future horticulturists. **(S-39, SAR# Y-1, NGC # YW 9)**

SC 42 GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE EDUCATION AWARD

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for the most notable project or projects educating the public on the benefits of gardening for wildlife. Extra points will be given for originality and new ideas. Include the number of members in the club, the percentage of members participating, the approximate number of people educated and how they were notified of the project. Club may partner with youth groups like scouts. **(NGC #EC 3 or G-4)** for establishing a public wildlife garden with signage. Please see NGC Awards Handbook for point score rubric. **(S-40)**

SC-43 POLLINATOR GARDENS WITH YOUTH

\$20 may be awarded to the club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) with the best project of planting pollinator gardens while educating youth. These gardens may be container gardens. Gardens may be in public or private locations. (S-41, SAR#Y-1, NGC # YW 9))

SC-Y-1 “THE SAVED SEED” EDUCATION AWARD

\$20 may be awarded to a club (Small club, Medium club, Large club) for the best project utilizing The Saved Seed book with youth. The project must involve more than reading the book to children and should demonstrate connecting children with nature. (S-Y-1)

SC-Y 2 SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL POSTERS

\$10 may be awarded to winners in grades 1-5. Send posters to the District Youth Contest Posters Chairman by specified **EARLY DEADLINE**. They will forward winning posters to SDC Youth Poster Chairman (LouAnn Dumminger, 700 Third Avenue, Farmville, VA 23901-2108 ladumminger@kinex.net) Do not use VFGC.NGC award application. **Student must be sponsored by a member club. (Y-2, SAR#6)**

SC-Y3 YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST

\$10 may be awarded to a high school student with the best 600-700 word essay on the topics listed below. Send essays to District Youth Activities Chairman by November 15. SDC Youth Essay Contest chairperson is LouAnn Dumminger, 700 Third Avenue, Farmville, VA 23901-2108

ladumminger@kinex.net. District Chairmen then send winning essays to VFGC Youth Activities Chairman by December 1. The state essay winner who is eligible for regional (SAR) competition. SAR offers a \$200. See the SAR website for information on the essays. NGC no longer judges essays.

(SAR # Y-3) Do not use VFGC/NGC award applications)

2025-2026 Theme/Topic: How Can We Use Native Plants for Climate Adaptation?

SC-Y4 YOUTH POETRY CONTEST

\$10 may be awarded to winners of all grade levels (K-9 grades and Special Education K-9 grades). Students must follow NGC rules. Send entries to District Youth Activities Chairman by November 15. District Chairmen then send winning poems to VFGC Youth Activities Chairman by December 1. State winners only are sent on to SAR. Do not use VFGC/NGC award application. For more information, see NGC website under youth contests/poetry contest. **(Y-4, SAR# Y-4)**

2025-2026 Theme: Plant America for the Next 100 Years

2026-2027 Theme: Plant America Red, White and Blue to Celebrate America’s 250th Birthday

SC-Y 5 YOUTH SCULPTURE CONTEST

\$10 may be awarded to winners of all grade levels (4th-8th grades). Students must follow NGC rules. Send entries to District Youth Activities Chairman by **November 15**. District Chairmen then send winning entry to VFGC Youth Activities Chairman by December 1. State winners only are sent on to SAR. Do not use VFGC/NGC award application. More information and entry form can be found on

NGC website under youth contests/youth sculpture contest. **Student must be sponsored by a member club (Y-5, SAR#Y-5)**

SC-Y6 “THE FRIGHTENED FROG” YOUTH PROJECT AWARD

\$10 may be awarded to a student from grades 1, 2, and 3 with the most outstanding project in the

conservation of amphibians. The project must involve more than just reading the book to children.
Student must be sponsored by a member garden club. (Y - 6)

SC-Y 7 "PROTECTING OUR POLLINATORS" YOUTH PROJECT AWARD

\$10 may be awarded to a student from each grade 1-5, with the most outstanding container garden planted for pollinators in a public place. **Student must be sponsored by a member garden club. (Y-7)**