

High School Essay Contest

2011 Theme: “The Benefits of Community Gardens”

2012 Theme: “Ways We Can Protect Aquatic Ecosystems”

The High School Essay Contest is open to all High School students attending 9th through 12th grades. Each year a \$1,000 National Garden Club scholarship will be awarded to the National Winner. If the winner is an underclassman, the \$1,000 Scholarship will be held by NGC, Inc., without accrued interest, until such time that the student enters college. At that time, the money will be forwarded to the Financial Aid Officer of the college that the student will enter. The second place winner will receive \$100. The contest must be sponsored by a single garden club, group of member clubs, councils or districts, or a State Garden Club. All entries become the property of National Garden Clubs, Inc. :

Essay Contest Rules

GCFM Deadline: December 1

Length of essay: Between 600-700 words. The entry will be penalized if the essay does not conform to the required length. All words are to be counted. All entries must be typed and titled. Students should write the essay so it is suitable to be published in the NGC, Inc. publication, *The National Gardener*.

Scale of Points:

- ❖ **Content** – 65
 - Knowledge of subject – 25
 - Practicality of proposal – 10
 - Originality – 15
 - Subject matter well organized/clarity of presentation – 15
- ❖ **Composition** – 25
 - Vocabulary – 15
 - Conformance to length – 10
- ❖ **Manuscript** – 10
 - Wallet-size photograph, name, address, phone number, school attending, grade, list of activities, and **sponsoring club** on back of manuscript – 5
 - Neatness – Legibility (A plastic folder keeps the manuscript neat.) – 5

Please note that the **themes for 2 years** are covered in the above contest rules. The **state deadline is December 1 of the contest theme year**. Entries should be submitted to Margot Haertel, GCFM Youth Activities Chairman, P.O. Box 1431, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679. If you have any questions, please contact Margot Haertel at (207) 244-0362 or by email at phaertel@roadrunner.com.