



Youth Contests 2026-2027



A&M Garden Club President - Jan Porter, AMGC4U@gmail.com

POETRY CONTEST: Theme: "Celebrate America's 250th Birthday with Red, White, and Blue!" Embrace your creativity through writing poetry. Explore different types of poetry and express your thoughts and ideas. Use your imagination!

ELIGIBILITY: 1) General Education - Kindergarten through 12th Grade

2) Special Education & English as a Second Language - K-12th Grade

CONTEST RULES: gardenclub.org, then projects, youth, K-12 Poetry Contest

1. All entries must be typed and titled.

2. Include name, address, age, grade and school of participant on the back of the entry.

3. Sponsoring A&M Garden Club and Texas Garden Club must be listed on the back of the entry.

4. Poems do not have to rhyme. Poems may be traditional verse, acrostics, blank verse, cinquains, diamond poems, limerick or Haiku. No more than 24 lines (including title) with a max of 42 letters/spaces per line.

5. The theme should not be used as the title to any poetry. Be creative and incorporate the theme.

6. All entries become property of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

JUDGING: Scale of Points - Title 10%, Content 40%, Creativity 30%, Style 20%. Total 100%.

CONTACT: A&M Garden Club: Jane Cohen, JWCohenTx@gmail.com, 979-690-3500, AMGC4Youth@gmail.com



U.S. FORESTRY SMOKEY BEAR OR WOODSY OWL POSTER CONTEST:

Theme: Smokey Bear: "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!"

Theme: Woodsy Owl: "Lend A Hand, Care for the Land"

Original drawing of Smokey Bear (SB) or Woodsy Owl (WO) that raises awareness of the importance of preventing wildfires or conserving natural resources.

ELIGIBILITY: Students 1st - 5th grades. Also Special Education students.

CONTEST RULES: <http://www.gardenclub.org/youth/smokey-bear-poster-contest.aspx>

1. Size 11" x 17". 2. Must feature SB or WO in traditional costume and include theme. 3. Posters should encourage children to take a personal role in preventing wildfires or caring for the environment. 4. Material may be crayons, markers, poster paints, watercolors, etc. 5. No three-dimensional posters, computer-scanned, or electronically generated images will be accepted. 6. Color of SB needs to be accurate. 7. Bold and simple in design. Message delivered in picture and slogan, easily understood. 8. On the back of the poster in lower right corner, attach a label or print artist's name, address, home phone #, grade level, school, teacher's name, city, and state. Should school policy preclude giving students' address and phone number, please include the school address and phone number. Each poster must show name of the sponsoring A&M Garden Club, PO Box 10892, College Station, TX 77842, phone 979-218-5183, email alice.piwonka@gmail.com

JUDGING: Originality 20, Design 20, Slogan 20, Artwork 20, Message 20.

CONTACT: A&M Garden Club: Alice Piwonka, alice.piwonka@gmail.com, 979-218-5183, Heather W, Susie O.



SCULPTURE CONTEST: Theme: "Keep Our Planet Green - Save Our Environment"

ELIGIBILITY: Students 4th - 8th grades. Sculptures of recycled, reused, and reduced materials.

CONTEST RULES: 1. Width of sculpture no more than 8 ½ x 11". 2. Height proportional to width. 3. Entry form - www.gardenclub.org/projects/youth/youth-recyclable-sculpture-contest, entry form. List materials used and a brief description of the sculpture. 4. Include two 4x6" photographs on back of form.

JUDGING: The purpose is to encourage youth to keep our planet green and to get involved with saving our planet. Creative use of materials and self expression 60%, Description of sculpture and materials used 30%, Craftsmanship and technique 10%.

CONTACT: A&M Garden Club: - - -



ESSAY CONTEST: Theme: "Advantages/Disadvantages of Alternative Energy Batteries"

ELIGIBILITY: All High School Students 9th - 12th grades. Texas Contest

CONTEST RULES: Between 600 - 700 words, typed and titled. All words will be counted. Points lost if the essay does not conform to length. All entries become the property of Texas Garden Clubs.

JUDGING: 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 [optional], name, address, phone number, school, grade, teacher; list of activities, name of sponsoring A&M Garden Club 5, Neatness, legibility, in folder 5).

CONTACT: A&M Garden Club - Susan Williams, sjmwilliams71@gmail.com, 979-324-2200

BIRD POSTER CONTEST: SC Theme: "Northern Flicker"

ELIGIBILITY: 4th - 8th Grades in schools and home schooled.

RULES: 1. Poster size 8½" x 11", Paper choice is by student. 2. Materials may include: crayons, markers, poster paints, watercolors. 3. Posters may include artwork pasted upon a 2nd piece of paper. No 3D allowed. No added framing sides. Include Poster Entry Form on back of poster in lower right corner, include student's name, grade, school, teacher's name, A&M Garden Club, Linda Kenyon, linda2lu2000@yahoo.com, 979-436-1628. If marker is used, avoid ink showing through to front or bleeding. 5) Poster will not be returned. Due Date - Library posters by June 14. All posters by Oct 16. SCR # 19

JUDGING: Originality 25%, Method 25%, Artwork 25%, Overall Effectiveness of the entry 25%.

CONTACT: A&M Garden Club - Linda Kenyon, linda2lu2000@yahoo.com, 979-436-1628



POSTER: Texas Environmental - Theme: "Wood Duck"

ELIGIBILITY: 1st - 5th Grades in schools and home schooled.

RULES: 1. Poster size 8½" x 11". 2. Do not add picture framing, just the poster.

3. Include Poster Entry Form on back of poster.

JUDGING: Originality and artwork 30%, Design 25%, Message (labeling) 20%, Distinguished markings 15%, Overall neatness 10%. TGC

CONTACT: A&M Garden Club - Linda Kenyon, linda2lu2000@yahoo.com, 979-436-1628



YOUTH GARDEN CLUB PROJECTS: Sponsored by the A&M Garden Club - AMGC4Youth@gmail.com

1. Grades: A) 1-3, B) 4-6, C) 7-9, D) Other

Y-1 Youth Garden Club - all phases of Garden Club work with youth

Y-2 Horticulture Achievement - outstanding horticulture activity.

Y-4 Youth Environmental Concern - project in environmental concern

Y-5 Horticulture - Planting and growing horticulture in an outdoor area.

2) High School Grades 9-12

Y-3 Gardeners Accomplishments - best all-around gardening project

Y-6 Distinguished Service - outstanding civic project with significant for public benefit, e.g. environment, conservation, landscape, horticulture, recycling, horticulture therapy, others.

Reference - pages 34-37 of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Award Rules 2019-21 -

<http://gardenclub.org/resources/awards-applications/NGC-Awards-Rules-2019-2021.pdf>

3) Youth Pollinator Gardens Grant - A&M Garden Club working with youth planning and planting Pollinator Gardens may apply for grants, up to \$200. Info: <http://www.gardenclub.org/youth/youth-contests>.



SCHOLARSHIPS: 1) District V for TAMU incoming college freshman or sophomore in horticulture and related majors for next fall, due to District before Mar 1, 2027. 2) Texas Garden Club in horticulture field for the following spring/winter semester for Texas residents, college-level juniors or above. Sophomores may apply for their junior year, due Oct 1, 2026.

Contact A&M Garden Club: Jane Cohen, JWCohenTx@gmail.com, 979-690-3500.



Deadline - Oct 16, 2026 Submit local entries to contacts as above for each contest. Local winners will be invited to a Garden Club event to be honored in August 2027. District, State and NGC winners receive certificates.

Forms - Facebook: A&M Garden Club, then Youth Flyer, Entry Info Media Release and check with contact.



A&M Garden Club encourages civic planting; stimulates an interest in the conservation of native plants, wildlife and natural resources; studies and shares the knowledge of improved horticulture practices and plant materials and their use in landscaping and flower arranging.

A&M Garden Club Youth Committee: Jane Cohen, Linda Kenyon, Susie Ohendalski, Alice Piwonka, Heather White, Eugenia Williams, Susan Williams

JC GC 24-27 Youth - 2026-2027 - Youth Contests Flyer 26-27 Aug 14

Please type or print legibly.

Youth Contests Entry Information & Media Release - A&M Garden



Student Name: _____ Grade _____ Age _____
Check One - General Education _____ Special Education _____ EASL _____
Title of Entry: _____
School and Address: _____
Teacher Name: _____ email: _____

Sponsoring Club: A&M Garden Club, PO Box 10892, College Station, TX 77842, email: AMGC4U@gmail.com
District V Garden Club, Texas Garden Club, South Central Region Garden Clubs, National Garden Clubs, Inc.
A&M Garden Club President: Jan Porter, 2500 Burton Dr, Bryan, TX 77802
Phone Number: 214.727.3461 Email Address: janwporter@yahoo.com
National Garden Clubs, South Central Region, Texas Garden Clubs, District V, A&M Garden Club.

Contact persons for each area: (schedule pickup if not listed or email entry)

Poetry - Jane Cohen, email: JWCohenTx@gmail.com, e-mail entry, 979.690.3500
Poster/Bird - Linda Kenyon, email: linda2lu2000@yahoo.com, 979.436.1628, schedule pickup
Poster/Environmental - Linda Kenyon, email: linda2lu2000@yahoo.com, 979.436.1628, schedule pickup
Poster Smokey Bear-Woodsy Owl - Alice Piwonka, email: alice.piwonka@gmail.com, 979.218.5183, Susie Ohendalski
Youth Essay - Susan Williams, email: sjmwilliams71@gmail.com, 979.324-2200, contact
Scholarship - Jane Cohen, email: JWCohenTx@gmail.com, e-mail entry, 979.690.3500
Judging Hostess - Eugenia Williams.
Recycle/Sculpture - --

Deadline for All Entries: Friday, October 16, 2026 - Complete and include this release form with entry.

Release for Publications and Website: Before sharing a name, information and/or photograph in one of our publications or on our websites, the above-listed organizations require a signed release form from all adults and from parent or legal guardian of any youth under 18.

Adult Release: I, _____ (print name) being over 18 years of age, hereby grant the above-listed organizations, the right to use the name, photograph, biography, city, state, country and article information, without compensation, on our websites and in any publication or written material. Please print below as you wish your name to appear.

Date: _____ Print Name: _____
Signature: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____

Release for Youth Under 18 Years of Age - Please initial beside information that you, as parent/legal guardian, release for use by the above-listed organizations.

_____ my child's name Print as you wish the name to appear: _____
Unless you specify otherwise, child's identification is by first name and last name initial for media use.
_____ my child's photograph _____ my child's biography _____ other: _____
_____ my child's work or contest entry submitted to the above listed organizations
_____ my child's city, state and country (specific addresses never used)

I understand that the above-listed organizations will use my or my child's information, my or my child's submitted entry, and my or my child's likeness only for educational, informational and/or promotional purposes. I hereby agree to hold the above listed organizations, their licensees and affiliates harmless from any liability resulting from my or my child's statements and action depicted or described in the information, text, and graphic representations.

Date: _____
Printed Name of Parent/Legal Guardian: _____
Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian: _____
Parent Contact Info: Phone: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____

** This form incorporates the National Garden Clubs release information. *