

Garden Club of Ohio Civic Awards during Coronavirus Pandemic 2020-2021

Covid-19 Pandemic Adaptation Award

Covid-19 Community Service Award

During the 2020-2021 coronavirus pandemic, some garden clubs have continued their educational mission and civic engagement while COVID-19 is impacting our communities, clubs, friends and families.

The Garden Club of Ohio provides Civic Awards for projects supporting the National Garden Club objectives. This year, for this one-time award category (hopefully) GCO is offering awards for projects arising from our adaptation to the COVID-19 crisis that are not necessarily NGC projects. The entire inception of this special category is to make it as flexible as possible for clubs, acknowledging the fact that so many people's lives have been upended, to showcase the variety of things our clubs can safely be doing right now to be civically engaged.

What has your club or a club member done to help the community or your club adapt to the pandemic way of life? Generally projects where clubs requests toy donations or hold food drives without regard to NGC objectives are scored down in judging as there is no relationship to the NGC objectives- technically those are not projects that should be submitted for a Civic Award. This year, projects of any type that relate to the pandemic are welcome. Meeting NGC objectives is not required.

Project ideas: Sewing masks for a local health care facility, collecting/distributing PPE, holding a food or blood drive, and helping to distribute cleaning supplies are examples of projects that would not usually be considered for a GCO award, but this year they are! Teaching your club how to use Zoom for meetings or creating a club "are you OK" phone tree for compromised members are good Covid related projects.

The project may be self-designed or a club may partner with an existing community project. Club members donating blood as a team at a local Red Cross blood drive might be a partner project, as would help in food and supply distribution with the local city health department. One member making cloth masks for her entire club or a few club members sewing to donate to a hospital would be a great project to submit as a self-designed project.

Most projects involving horticulture or design will fit into our standard Civic Award options. For example, a club teaching the community how to grow a Victory Garden is a traditional Civic Award. A club collecting vegetables and donating to a food bank is a Covid Award.

The idea is to allow clubs or individuals to pursue projects of their own choosing that address COVID-19 in some capacity in their local community or community of choice. This is a unique opportunity for GCO to support our clubs doing work that is community-based but not as focused on the NGC objectives.

Scoring:

Presentation: 5 points. Maximum of (3) three front pages only. Additional pages will not be considered, only the first three.

Achievement: 65 points. Scope and size of project; need fulfillment, benefit, accomplishment, comprehensiveness of work, activities to attain goal, financial report.

Participation: 15 points. How many of your members helped, did you work with others?

Documentation: 15 points. Photos preferred but not required for Covid Award. This is your supportive data for your project. Before, during, after photos for example. News articles, invitations, thank you notes may be included here.

#2020-2021 1: Pandemic Adaptation Award

Award for a Club (one or more members) performing the best Covid-19 related civic project that is not eligible for any other civic award. For example, this project may reflect adaptation to physical distancing, facial covering, and hand washing (safety) while performing community service or holding club meetings. Increased or new use of technology to benefit the club or community would belong here. The focus is adaptation.

#2020-2021 2: Community Service Award

#2A: Award for a GCO club member(s) performing the best Covid-19 related civic project without club representation. Examples: three club members donated blood; one member sewed face coverings. This was done on their own, not representing the club.

#2B: Award for a Club performing the best Covid-19 related civic project while representing the Club. Examples: Members sewed face coverings for the club to donate. Members gathered personal hygiene products for the club to donate to a food pantry. Generally speaking, if the project includes design, horticulture, or education, it belongs in a different civic award category.