

## Garden Club of Ohio Civic Awards during Coronavirus Pandemic 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 still impacting our communities, clubs, friends and families. As I write this, the Delta variant is raging.

The Garden Club of Ohio provides Civic Awards for projects supporting the National Garden Club objectives. Continued from 2020, 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. And we now know that good changes made in 2020 have continued and been improved through 2021.

In 2020, member clubs submitted 25 award applications for this category! What have you started in 2020 and continued in 2021- how did you improve it? With Covid knowledge under your belt, what changes have you made overall?

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 in this category. Meeting NGC objectives is not required.

Project ideas: 2020 saw sewing masks, holding a food or blood drive, and helping to distribute cleaning supplies as examples of projects that were submitted. In 2021, did you help with a vaccination drive? Did you continue Zoom meetings which helped to add new members? Did you rewrite your by-laws to accommodate electronic meetings and voting?

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.

#### 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.

**#2021-1 Pandemic Adaptation 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.

#### #2021-2 Community Service Award:

**#2A:** Award for a GCO club member(s) performing the best Covid-19 related civic project without club representation required.

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.