

ALMANAC December 2011

You have designated one of your club's projects as your 2010-2012 Community Improvement Contest Entry. Now comes the reporting!

Contest entry rules are as follows:

1. The project must be accomplished during the contest period March 1, 2010 to April 30, 2012.
2. Club entries must be postmarked and mailed to this Chairman by February 1, 2012.
3. All Entries must include a completed Community Improvement Contest Entry Form with **either a narrative attached or project notebook attached**. (These are the two ways of reporting)
4. Project notebooks containing narrative descriptions and supporting materials must not exceed 7 pounds in weight or measure more than 15x20 inches in size.
5. All awards money must be used to further community improvement.
6. A joint project shall use only one entry form and be signed by the participating club presidents.
7. Juniorette clubs are eligible to enter a project; Juniorette entries are judged separately.

The Community Improvement Contest Entry Form can be found in the GFWC Club Manual under "The Member Center Awards" <http://www.gfwc.org/gfwc/Awards.asp?SnID=22289793> in the Community Improvement Section. Please note that although the form says April 1, 2012, the New Jersey deadline is February 1, 2012 in order for the state judging to take place and the winning entry be reported to GFWC. A copy of the entry form has been included in the December ALMANAC.

Tips for winning entries:

1. The narrative and supporting materials should include photographs, press cuttings, proclamations, correspondence, diagrams, plans, and etc. all in a well-organized notebook. **The content of your report is more important than its appearance.**
2. Focus on the following:
 - a. how the project improved the community
 - b. how the project impacted the members of your club
 - c. how the project involved other organizations in your community
3. Through the narrative and materials included in your project book, clearly describe:
 - a. Community need
 - b. Process used for choosing the project
 - c. How the project sought and engaged community support (including a list of partners)
 - d. How the club financed the project (including any outside funding)
 - e. Public relations efforts and media support
 - f. How the club overcame obstacles
 - g. The results and long term effect of the project on the community
 - h. The club's continuing role in supporting the project
 - i. How the project influenced changes in the community (e.g. increased awareness, improved communication/collaboration, etc.)

When writing your report, be aware of the judging criteria:

Up to 25 are allotted for Community need and how and why the project was selected.

Up to 50 points are allotted for Community Collaborations, working with a variety of partners. (All partners should be listed). How the club worked to carry out your plan of action (details of your efforts should be included) and what obstacles were encountered and how they were addressed and overcome.

The final 25 points are allotted for the degree of success achieved, the long term effects on the community and whether or not the project increased community awareness or behavior.

It is not always the grandest or most involved project that receives awards, but rather how well the club interacted with other groups to get something accomplished.

Entering the contest means that your club would be eligible to win a national award of up to \$5,000 for first place, \$3,500 for second, \$2,500 for third, \$1,500 for fourth, and \$500 for fifth or a state award of \$50 for first place, \$35 for second, and \$25 for third place. There is a separate Juniors award.

All clubs that participate will receive a certificate. A district certificate will be awarded for the winning project in each district.

New Jersey clubs have been national winners in the past. It would be wonderful if one was again!!