



Garden Club of Georgia National Garden Club Youth Poetry Contest



2024 THEME:

*"My Garden Has Vegetables to Spare That I Can Share-
Help Fight Hunger by Sharing Vegetables from Our Garden"*

Purpose: Excite and encourage our Youth to express and explore their creative thoughts through different types of poetry. National Garden Club's Poetry Contest enables our Youth to embrace their creativity through the art of writing.

Message to Youth: Be imaginative and join the winners to see your poetry in a digital poetry booklet ready to print.

Eligibility and Categories

- Youth in Grades **K-12** compete by grade level in one of three categories
- Categories: General Education, Special Needs, or English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

Dates for Submission:

Club entries must be sent by **December 1** to **Dogwood District Chair Trudy Rudert**

4852 Scotts Mill Way
Peachtree Corners, GA 30096

Contact her at: trudert@comcast.net or 770-446-1428

Contest Guidelines:

- All entries must be typed and **titled**.
- Poems should be no longer than 24 lines (including title) with a max of 42 letters/spaces per line in order to fit on a single page of the booklet.
- Poems do not have to rhyme. Poetry may be traditional verse, acrostics, blank verse, cinquains, diamond poems, limerick, or Haiku.
- **When choosing a poem title, please be creative and incorporate the theme. The theme should not be used as the title to any poetry.**
- On the back of entry include name, address, age, grade, school and school address of participant, and the name of the sponsoring local garden club. (Child privacy is important, and thus, published winning poems will only identify the poet's first name, last name initial, local garden club and state.)
- Include the name and address of the club contact person **Club contact person is the mailing address for awards for any winning entries.** The sponsoring club needs to know how to contact the students should they win so the club can get their awards to them.
- The poet's family does not have to be a member of the local sponsoring garden club. The sponsoring garden club may be that of a grandparent.
- All entries become the property of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Scale of Points:

- Title: 10%
- Content: 40%
- Creativity: 30%
- Style: 20%
- Total: 100%

A State Certificate may be awarded to first, second and third place winners in each grade level within each category for the best poem submitted by an individual youth sponsored by a GCG member club. Cash awards will be \$25 (1st place), \$15 (2nd place) and \$10 (3rd place) in each of the 117 divisions. Only regional winners are considered in the judging for national winners. Contest winners will not be allowed to win two consecutive years. All of the winning entries will be compiled into a booklet, which will be made available to the winners. State winners will be announced in April, 2025. National winners are announced in May, 2025.

State Chairman: Jean O'Shields, 400 Valley View Dr, Fort Valley, GA 31030
478-397-7660, jeanoshields7@gmail.com