



# GCG/NGC Youth Poetry Contest

2025 THEME:  
**Plant America  
For The Next 100 Years**



## 2025 Contest Rules

Excite and encourage our Youth to express and explore their creative thoughts through different types of poetry. NGC's Poetry Contest enables our Youth to embrace their creativity through the art of writing. 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 Your district chairman.

## Guidelines:

- All entries must be typed and **titled**.
- Include name, school address, age, grade, and school of participant on the back of entry. (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.)
- Sponsoring garden club and contact person. **Contact person is the mailing address for any winning entries.**
- Sponsoring garden club may be that of a grandparent.
- All entries become the property of National Garden Clubs, Inc.
- 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.
- **The theme should not be used as the title to any poem**; however, the title should incorporate the theme.
- National Winners are announced May 2026, State winners are announced April 2026.

## Scale of Points:

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

## GCG & NGC Youth Poetry Contest

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. First place State winners are sent to the Deep South Region. Those first place winners are considered in the judging for national winners.. All of the National Garden Club winning entries will be compiled into a booklet, which will be made available on line.

Note: Only Regional winners are considered in the judging for National winners.  
National contest winners will not be allowed to win in two consecutive years.

Visit [www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org](http://www.gardenclubofgeorgia.org)

For more information, contact

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