

Community Improvement Contest

OBJECTIVE:
Encourage and reward clubs for completing improvement projects that meet the unique needs of their communities, helping to make their cities and towns better places to live

ACTION PLAN

HOW TO ENTER

- o Review and adhere to all criteria and deadlines outlined.
- o Order *How to Develop and Implement a Successful GFWC Project* from the GFWC Marketplace (www.GFWC.org/Marketplace).
- o Complete the official GFWC Community Improvement Contest form.
- o Attach a narrative and accompanying materials if desired.

CONTEST RULES

- o The project book must not exceed seven pounds, nor measure more than 15 x 20 inches.
- o This project covers the period March 1, 2008, to April 30, 2010.
- o Club entries must be sent to state GFWC Community Improvement Contest Chairmen, postmarked by March 1, 2010.
- o Each state's first-place entry is sent to GFWC, postmarked by April 1, 2010. Send to: GFWC, Attn. Community Improvement Contest, 1734 N ST NW, Washington, DC 20036-2990.
- o Entries forwarded to GFWC become the property of GFWC and will not be returned. Winning entries will be housed in the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center.
- o Joint entries: projects involving two to six clubs qualify as joint entries. Only one entry form shall be submitted, with all club presidents signing the single form. Clubs involved in joint entries are not eligible to submit individual club entries. Joint entries selected as national winners shall send one representative to the GFWC Annual International Convention.
- o Clubs that have won a national award at a previous GFWC Annual International Convention must submit an entirely different project entry for consideration in 2010. Winning projects that have been expanded will not be considered.
- o Judges must not be members of GFWC.
- o All monetary awards must be used to further community improvement initiatives.

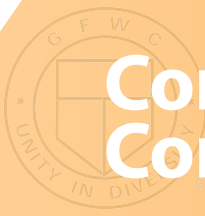
TIPS FOR WINNING ENTRIES

- o Identify and define the community need.
- o Describe the process of choosing the project.
- o Describe how the club engaged community support.
- o Describe how the club financed the project and obtained media support.



"THIS IS A CONTEST WHICH NO ONE CAN LOSE. Every participating community will have substantial benefits of some kind to show for it...including a growth in friendliness and cooperation among its citizens. If this contest does nothing more than arouse the women of the community to a 'do-it-now' determination, it will have accomplished much." Jessie Ash Arndt, reporting in the *Christian Science Monitor* in 1949 about the *Build a Better Community Contest*, the forerunner to GFWC's popular *Community Improvement Contest*, which continues today.





Community Improvement Contest

- o Recount how the club overcame obstacles.
- o Provide a list of collaborating partners, including government agencies, other service groups, and professional organizations.
- o Describe the results and successes, and the club's continuing role in the project.
- o Explain the long-term effects of the project on the community.
- o Describe how the contest influenced changes in the community, e.g., increased awareness, willingness to work together, etc.
- o Include before and after photos, newspaper clippings, press releases, correspondence, and other documenting materials.
- o Content is more important than appearance.

IMPORTANT DATES

- o January 15, 2010: State judges names, mailing addresses, e-mail address, and other contact information is due to the national GFWC Community Improvement Contest Chairman; checks for state winners will be issued upon receipt
- o March 1, 2010: Club entries are due to state GFWC Community Improvement Contest chairmen, postmarked by March 1, 2010
- o March 5-15, 2010: Entries judged on state level.
- o April 1, 2010: State's first place entry due to GFWC. Send to: GFWC, Attn: GFWC Community Improvement Contest, 1734 N ST, NW, Washington, DC 20036
- o Spring 2010: State award presentations at state conventions
- o April 2010: Two-day national judging in Washington, D.C.
- o June 2010: GFWC Community Improvement Contest awards presented at GFWC Annual International Convention

AWARDS

GFWC NATIONAL AWARDS

- o First Place: \$5,000
- o Second Place: \$3,500
- o Third Place: \$2,500
- o Fourth Place: \$1,500
- o Fifth Place: \$500
- o International Affiliate Award: \$500
- o Juniorette Award: \$250
- o **Total National Monetary Awards: \$13,750**

One member from each winning club will have the following expenses covered:

- o Roundtrip transportation to attend the GFWC Annual International Convention
- o One night's lodging, ticket to award banquet, and Convention registration fee





Community Improvement Contest

GFWC STATE AWARDS

- o First Place: \$50
- o Second Place: \$35
- o Third Place: \$25
- o **Total per state: \$110**
- o **Total for 50 states: \$5,500**
- o **Total Monetary Awards, National and State: \$19,250**

JUDGING CRITERIA

PROJECT SELECTION – 25 POINTS

Community Need: Judges will look for clearly identified community issues that were considered in the project selection phase and review how the needs were addressed.

Selection Process: Judges will look at the selection process and methodology used in choosing the project.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT – 50 POINTS

Community Collaboration: Judges will look for projects that create and sustain working relationships with government agencies and other organizations in the community. List all partners.

Plan of Action: Judges will examine how the club worked to execute its plans and accomplish its goals. Provide the details of your efforts and other documentation including photos, letters, news clippings, etc.

Persistence of Effort: Judges are interested in knowing what obstacles the club encountered and how it addressed such challenges.

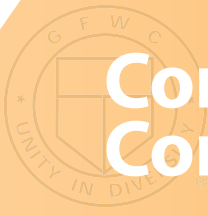
PROJECT EVALUATION – 25 POINTS

Degree of Success: The judges will look for the specifics of your achievements. They will examine how the effort differed from what was originally envisioned. They will also look at what criteria were used to measure success, and for future plans for the project.

Permanence of Achievement: Judges will want you to explain the long-term effects the project will have on the community.

Changed Attitudes and Practices: Judges are interested in whether or not the project resulted in increased community awareness; specifics are recommended here.





Community Improvement Contest

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CONTEST ENTRY FORM /COVER SHEET 2008-2010

State Federation _____ Date _____

GFWC Club Name _____ District _____

Number of Members _____ Number of Members Involved _____

Type of Entry (check one) _____ Single _____ Joint

(If a joint entry, please list all participating clubs with president's signatures on additional sheet.)

Project City _____ County _____ Population _____

Type of Community (check one) _____ Rural _____ Urban _____ Suburban

1. Briefly describe the project.

2. Describe the reasons for selecting the project.

3. Describe the community collaboration and extent of cooperation.

4. Outline permanent results achieved, both tangible and intangible.

STATISTICS

Total monies raised for the project _____ Total Volunteer Hours _____

Club President _____ Telephone Number _____

Project Chairman _____ Telephone Number _____

Club President's Signature _____

Chairman's Name _____ E-mail Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MARCH 1, 2010

- o Make two copies of completed form and accompanying materials. Send one to the State GFWC Community Improvement Contest Chairman and keep one for the club's files.
- o Report your GFWC Community Improvement Contest activities in appropriate program area.

