

CLEANEST CITY CONTEST
Sponsored by
**LOUISIANA GARDEN CLUB
FEDERATION, INC.**

In 1958, the Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc. began sponsoring a state-wide "Cleanest City Contest." To date, Louisiana is the only member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. to sponsor such a contest. The aim of the contest is to instill civic pride in the individual citizens and thus, improve the appearance of villages, towns and cities. Each year competition has become stronger, and the cities and towns have achieved higher and higher standards of cleanliness. We point with pride to the many participating communities through the years – and to the ever-increasing number who work year round to keep their communities clean and beautiful

LOUISIANA GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION, INC. (LGCF)

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Regulations and Procedures for Conducting The Cleanest City Contest

1. The Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc. will sponsor a contest to select the cleanest cities in Louisiana.
2. Each District may have ten (10) categories:
 - A. Population 10 to 499
 - B. Population 500 to 999
 - C. Population 1,000 to 1,499
 - D. Population 1,500 to 2,499
 - E. Population 2,500 to 4,499
 - F. Population 4,500 to 9,499
 - G. Population 9,500 to 14,499
 - H. Population 15,000 to 44,999
 - I. Population 45,000 to 99,999
 - J. Population over 100,000
3. Entries will be judged by specified rules and in accordance to the Cleanest City score sheet scale of points.
4. Any Louisiana community, town or city that has a Mayor or a duly elected official, such as a Parish President, may enter. The entrant must be sponsored by a Federated Garden Club to enter the contest. This Sponsoring Club does not necessarily have to be in your community, town or city. If your town does not have a Federated Garden Club, the State Chairman may recommend one.
5. The fee is \$50.00 and must be submitted with the application on a **PROPER** entry form to the LGCF State Cleanest City Chairman by February 1st. (Please **do not** make one up on your computer! Use the one in the back of this booklet.) The entrant or the sponsoring club may pay the fee. Completed entry forms or fees received by a District Chairman should be sent to the LGCF State Cleanest City Chairman.
6. No city, club, or clubs shall be assessed more than the entry fee.
7. LGCF State Cleanest City Chairman shall submit to each LGCF District Director and LGCF District Cleanest City Chairman a complete listing of all entries from their District.
8. District judging will take place in March. The District Chairman will inform entrants of the judging dates and times.
9. State judging will be conducted in April.

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10. There shall be a uniform mode of transportation across the state. Mini Vans, SUV's, and people movers that can easily accommodate six people are suggested, with forward facing seats only. There should be only two people (the driver and the narrator) in the vehicle with the three (3) judges and the State or local Chairman, unless approved by the State or local Chairman. It is suggested that only one person narrate, otherwise it becomes confusing for the judges.

11. The District Director and District C C Chairman will be responsible for the contest within their district. A team of three qualified judges (preferably from out-side your district) shall be selected to judge throughout the district by the District Chairman, the District Director and approved by the State C C Chairman – prior to February 1st. The results of the District portion of the C C Contest Shall be announced by the District Chairman. **All** participants shall be notified of the results **within 24 hours** of the completion of the judging. There shall be **no** ties. Each District C C Chairman should submit to the State C C Chairman the results **within 24 hours** of the completion of the judging. A copy of the critique, given to each city should be sent to the State C C Chairman when it is sent to the city.

12. Winners of the state portion of the competition will be notified after the completion of **ALL** State Judging. All District Chairmen, District Directors, Mayors, or duly elected officials, such as Parish Presidents, will be notified of the results of the judging in their category. If the judging is completed after business hours on a Friday, the results will be given on the following Monday. Local news releases shall come from the State Cleanest City Chairman.

13. Each top-scoring entrant in the 10 categories (must score 90 points or over to be a District Winner) in each district shall receive a plaque as ***The District Winner***. The engraved plaque shall be presented to the Mayor, Parish President or other elected official by the LGCF State Cleanest City Chairman at a date to be determined later.

14. Entrants will all receive a Certificate of Appreciation from the **LGCF**.

15. Clubs should keep a record of procedures used in conducting the Cleanest City Contest along with the news releases. "Before and After" pictures taken from exactly the same position (s) (from all over your town even if it is not on the route) and all materials pertaining to the C C Contest (which may be helpful to the judges and the District or State Chairman) should be put in the Book of Evidence. The District and State Judges (if you move on to state) will view and judge the Book of Evidence. This is the only evidence of community participation the judges have.

16. The "***Cleanest City in Louisiana in each category***" will be chosen from the District winners in each category. A panel of State Judges (composed of (3) three qualified LGCF garden club members will be selected by the State Chairman and approved by the **LGCF** president. The **LGCF** President-elect will serve as a state judge at least once prior to becoming President. If a judge is from a city or town being judged, that judge will not be allowed to judge in that category. The State or District Chairman will then become the third judge.

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This will also be the case if a judge becomes ill or is unable to continue.

17. Winners will be encouraged to erect the following sign at the entry to their cities:

NAME OF CITY

LOUISIANA GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION

“CLEANEST CITY CONTEST WINNER”

POPULATION CATEGORY

YEAR

18. An entrant must score 95 points (or above) to be eligible to win the State Contest. An engraved plaque will be awarded to the State winners in each of the 10 categories. The plaque will be presented by the LGCF State President and the State Cleanest City Chairman.

19. There is no limit to the number of times a city or town may enter and win this contest.

20. Display the Green Flag of Ecology as a Symbol of your commitment and as a Pledge to Act as an Environmental Conservator of our Earth. The Greek Letter "theta" - warning of death, symbolizes a threat to Earth and its atmosphere. Green stripes are for unspoiled land; white, for pure air. As citizens, we need a new commitment to clean up, to enhance and to restore our country - and continue to use our natural resources wisely.

RULES FOR STATE AND DISTRICT

CLEANEST CITY JUDGES

1. Cities and towns must be entered in the Cleanest City Contest in their proper population category (within corporate limits).

2. The judges, whether State or District, never reveal the point scores to Entrants or to anyone other than the State Chairman. Score sheets are never given to entrants for any reason.

3. Special attention should be given to the landscaping and overall litter-free, clean appearance of Blue Star Markers.

4. Approaches to a city or town should be carefully observed. Weeds around poles, signs, and in roadside ditches detract as well as subtract points from the Judges' scores. Care should also be taken to see that there are no weeds growing in broken cracks of sidewalks or on street curbs.

5. Special attention should be given to make sure no weeds or tall grasses are growing along school ground fences. Students could be given the job of policing the grounds to ensure that they are litter-free. This will encourage pride in the cleanliness of their school.

6. Vacant lots should be mowed at least 10 feet from the street or highway. We know it is not always possible to mow the entire lot, although it does look better. Vacant lots must be litter-free.

7. Abandoned cars, old tires, and abandoned buildings are litter problems in most cities. A good anti-litter project will help to rid the community of such objects.

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8. The State Chairman, District Chairmen or Judges have the privilege of asking the Driver to take a route other than the designated or "prepared" route.
9. The **City** CC Chairman should make arrangements (place, address) to meet the State or District Judges when you are being judged or when an award is to be presented. Notify the District Chairman and/or State Cleanest City Chairman in advance of the meeting place so that the itinerary may be planned.
10. A "Certificate of Appreciation" will be given to all state entrants.
11. Hospitality of some sort is usually offered to the Judges. This is not mandatory. It is a courtesy and is greatly appreciated. Please keep it simple.
12. A map of the city is not necessary. The narrator should inform the judges of the name of the street as they enter it. The judge may make note of it on the note sheet.

TIPS FOR CLEANEST CITY LITTER SURVEY:

Divide the community into sections and assign individuals and groups to canvas a certain area, taking pictures of litter accumulation and other spots to be improved. Enlist the aid of City Officials and/or adult and youth organizations in cleaning up these places. Particular attention might be given to improving your city entrances. Take "before" and "after" pictures to be used for publicity purposes and in your Book of Evidence.

SET UP A SPEAKER'S BUREAU:

Make arrangements to address local adult and youth groups on the subject of litter prevention. Secure statistics from municipal and state officials on costs for cleaning up litter and on law enforcement practices - for your speakers.

CONDUCT A "LITTER WORKSHOP":

Cooperate with groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, civic and state clubs, women's clubs, scout organizations and other youth groups, and municipal officials in conducting workshops on the subject of litter prevention. As an entrance fee, ask each participant to bring a piece of litter that they found on the way to the meeting. Be sure the meeting results in broadened community action to prevent litter and to improve the area.

HOLD A CONTEST:

Categories for the best poster, song, skit, jingle, or slogan - on Litter Prevention will receive special recognition. Arrange to display the winning posters in the windows of local business firms. Use the jingles, songs, and slogans in the local newspapers, radio stations, or on bank and realtor signs.

GOOD TURN DAY:

After making appropriate arrangements, a group of citizens could spend a Saturday cleaning up and landscaping town monuments.

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**LOUISIANA GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION, INC.
CLEANEST CITY CONTEST
ENTRY FORM**

Date: _____
City: _____ **District:** _____
Population: _____ **Category:** _____
Mayor/Administrator: _____ **Phone:** _____
Emergency contact (other than Mayor): _____ **Phone:** _____
Mailing Address: Zip: _____
Physical Address: _____ **Zip:** _____
E-Mail Address: _____
Your CCC City Chairman: _____ **Phone:** _____
Address: _____ **Zip:** _____
E-Mail Address: _____
(If you are unsure of any of the following information pertaining to LGCF clubs, leave it blank of contact Jean Gilstrap)
LGCF CCC District Chairman: _____ **Phone:** _____
Address: _____ **Zip:** _____
E-Mail Address: _____
Sponsoring Garden Club(s): _____
Garden Club President(s): _____ **Phone:** _____
Address: _____ **Zip:** _____
E-Mail Address: _____
Local Newspaper: _____ **Phone:** _____
Address: _____ **Zip:** _____
E-Mail: _____

(If additional space is needed, attach extra page.)

Mail entry form and fee of \$50.00 (payable to LGCF Cleanest City Contest) to Jean Gilstrap, 161 Donna Drive, Farmerville, LA 71241-7245. Submit entries after November 1. Deadline for receiving entries is February 1. Please include directions to City Hall, or designated meeting place, or physical address where we are to meet. You may wish to have someone meet the judges. This information should be sent to the District Chairman and District winners, it "must" also be sent to the State Chairman. Please include an emergency phone number!