

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	14,999
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 Treasurer by March 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 Treasurer.
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 or early April. The District Chairman will inform entrants of the judging dates and times.
9. State judging will be conducted in April or May.

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, and approved by the State C C Chairman – prior to March 1st. A judge may not judge the city they are from. 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 (if the judging is completed after business hours on Friday, then the results will be announced on the following Monday). There shall be **no** ties. Each District C C Chairman is to submit to the State C C Chairman the results **within 24 hours** of the completion of the judging. A copy of the critique, will be given to each city and a copy sent to the State C C Chairman, within two (2) weeks of the final judging.
12. Winners of the state portion of the competition will be notified after the completion of **ALL** State Judging, by the state chairman. All District Chairmen District Directors, Mayors, or duly elected officials, such as Parish Presidents, will be notified of the results of the judging. If the judging is completed after business hours on a Friday, the results will be given the following Monday. Local news releases shall come from the District or State Cleanest City Chairman.
13. Each top-scoring entrant in the 10 categories (must score 90 points or above to be a District Winner) each district winner shall receive a plaque as **The District Winner**. The 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. Cities should keep a record of procedures used in conducting the Cleanest City Contest. This is the Book of Evidence. Things to be included in the book are, "**Before and After Pictures**", pictures of litter (from all areas of your town, even if it is not on the route). These should be taken from the same vantage point. These are pictures of the litter before it is picked up and after it is picked up. It is helpful if pictures are taken of people doing the work. Any materials pertaining to the C C Contest which may be helpful to the judges and the District or State Chairman, such as thank you letters, news articles (with clearly marked dates from the same year ect.), should be put in the Book of Evidence. The Judges will view and judge the Book of Evidence. This book shows community participation.
16. The "***Cleanest City***" in each category will be chosen from the District winners.

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 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. If a judge becomes ill or is unable to continue the District or State Chairman will become the third judge.

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 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 or State President. Score sheets are never given to entrants for any reason.
3. Special attention should be given to the landscaping and overall litter-free, and clean appearance of Blue Star Markers.
4. Approaches to a city or town should be carefully manicured. Weeds around poles, signs, and in ditches detract from the overall appearance. Care should also be taken to see that there are no weeds growing in the cracks of sidewalks or street curbs.
5. Special attention should be given to any tall grasses growing along fences on school grounds. Students could be given the task 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. Adopting City ordinances' will help to rid the community of such objects. Abandoned cars should be removed, if they cannot be moved cover them with a tarp or sheet. Old tires should be removed. If they are at a business they do not count against the city.
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 planed.
10. 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 say the name of the street as they enter it. A single sheet of paper with the name of the street and space between the street names is very helpful. **Do not** laminate it.

EXAMPLE:

Main

Elm

1st

2nd

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 off-

icials 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.

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

Deadline for entries is March 1st

Date: _____ District: _____
City: _____ Category: _____
Population: _____

Mayor/Administrator: _____ Phone: _____
Emergency contact (other than mayor): _____ Cell: _____
Mailing Address: _____ Zip: _____
Physical Address: _____ Zip: _____
E-Mail: _____

Your City CCC Co-Chairman: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Zip: _____
E-Mail: _____

(If you are unsure of any of the following information pertaining to LGCF clubs, you may contact Jean Gilstrap or leave blank)

LGCF CCC District Chairman: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____

Sponsoring Garden Club(s): _____
Garden Club President: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Zip: _____
E-Mail: _____

Local Newspaper: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Zip: _____
E-Mail: _____

****Entry Fee is \$50.00 payable to Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc. Notation on check should read "Cleanest City Contest Entry Fee." Mail Fee with Completed Entry Form to: Ruth Delhomme, LGCF Treasurer, 18340 W. Village Way Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810-8929.**

****Contact Information and/or Questions: Jean Gilstrap, LGCF Cleanest City Contest Chairman.**
Email: jeangilstrap@gmail.com Phone: 318-368-8189 or 318-680-1984

****Please include directions to City Hall, or designated meeting place to the District Chairman. If you are a District winner please send this information to the State Chairman. "Remember to include an emergency phone number other than the Mayor's."**

Received Date: _____ Check No. _____