



JOIN US

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YOUTH THEMES

The Poetry Theme for this year is: 2016-2017 Theme: "We Three: Bees, Butterflies and Me"

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 printed booklet!

The High School Essay Award Theme is:

2016-2017 "We Need Our Pollinators"

Pictured left, is Kiana Mata. Kiana is a senior at Armuchee High School and the 2016 1st place GCG Essay Winner and the 2nd place Deep South Region Winner. Kiana is active in so many school activities and still found time to be of assistance at garden club functions. She attended the President's Environmental Workshop at Amicalola Falls and served at a garden club function during National Garden Week. Kiana also was the 4th place winner in the National Duct Tape Competition. Our youth need our support and encouragement.



Kiana Mata and friend 4th place National Duct Tape Winners

FOCUS ON YOUTH:

Members of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., the time is **NOW** to begin focusing on our youth. There are so many schools and youth programs that could use a helping hand. The subject of pollinators and their importance to our society is an interesting and wonderful way to work with the youth. Have you ever noticed how little the enrollment fee is for a youth club? Check out the application at the GCG website. The form is simple and you should be able to find groups that would welcome a little help or diversion. The youth would benefit. Many in Laurel District members would attest that adults benefit in a number of ways.



2016 NGC winner

Youth Garden Clubs

All member clubs of National Garden Clubs may organize and/or sponsor a Youth Garden Club. The benefits to the students include:

- Introduces the art and science of gardening using fundamental math, reading and writing skills, as well as practical applications.
- Increases awareness of the environment, natural resources, ecology, conservation, composting and recycling.
- Helps raise standardized test scores, especially in science.
- Encourages creativity through observing the cycles of life.
- Develops leadership skills.
- Provides opportunities for participation and recognition with nationally sponsored contests and awards.
- May lead to future hobbies and career opportunities.

Each established Youth Garden Club is registered annually with the state garden club, which automatically registers the club as a member of National Garden Clubs. Further instructions, guidance, and program suggestions are available in the NGC publication, Youth Garden Club Handbook, available from the NGC Official Online Store

Many NGC members work with youth in settings other than a Youth Garden Club. Youth Gardening Programs by NGC clubs can be affiliated with a school, church, neighborhood, day-care centers or established youth organizations such as Scouts, 4-H, science and ecology clubs, Master Gardeners and Future Farmers of America.

Gardening opens whole new areas of exploration, awareness, enjoyment, amazement and learning for children.

National Garden Clubs provides many educational opportunities for the youth at the pre-school, elementary, middle and high school level. The purpose of the youth gardening programs is to introduce gardening, conservation, protection of wildlife, recognition of plants, trees and shrubs, basic flower arrangements, and a love and appreciation of nature.

The goal is that they will be future citizens who will be responsible and capable with greater self-expression, dignity, integrity and knowledge of their environment.



One of our newest youth groups: The Monarchs

In the spring one of the first activities for this group was the installation of a raised flower bed. They are excited as school starts back to plan for fall vegetables. Their yearbook has been completed, programs have been planned, and the adults as well as the children are excited about the activities of the coming year.

HAPPINES IS PLAYING IN THE DIRT.
Playing in the dirt is a learning experience for the youth and the adult. See if you can find a youth group

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<http://www.gardenclub.org/youth/youth->