

The Garden Club of Cape Coral

Merit Scholarship Application Checklist - 2025

Please follow all directions carefully and completely.

- This application, when completed, must be submitted by email to Janice Johnsen at: meritaward@gardenclubofcapecoral.com. All pages should include the applicants name at the top of the page.
- All submissions, including academic listing(s) or transcript(s) and references, must be in Adobe .pdf format.
- Distribute the forms for references to the two people, whom you have selected, early in the application process. Your references should email their completed forms directly to Janice Johnsen at: meritaward@gardenclubofcapecoral.com.
- The rating criteria in the attached rubric will be used in judging applications. Use it as a guide when you complete your application.
- If you have a question, send it by email to Janice Johnsen at: meritaward@gardenclubofcapecoral.com and include your contact information.

The Garden Club of Cape Coral

Merit Scholarship Awards Information and Guidance 2025

Awards in honor of Marty Ward & Donna Conway, Founders & Members of the Club

Purpose of Scholarships: The intent of the Garden Club scholarship program is to find and reward graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated serious interest and involvement in studies and activities dedicated to environmental preservation, horticulture, agriculture, biology/botany, natural resources, conservation or hydrology. Although not a requirement, applicants who have clear future goals in fields such as those just mentioned – either through their college studies and/or for life after college - may be judged more favorably. However, Club members recognize that current serious actual commitment to the environment is likely to resurface as future commitment; consequently, this is given greater weight during judging of the applications.

Award Details: Awards of up to \$2,000 to each winner will be presented at the GCCC evening meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2025. Winners should be present to receive their awards. Verification of acceptance at an accredited institution of higher learning is required prior to providing the award. Awards are not based on financial need. Each award is provided directly to the winner and can be used for any college related expenses. Larger awards may be provided to winners who plan to pursue careers compatible with the **purpose of these scholarships**. The application is available under the Awards Tab at www.gardenclubofcapecoral.com .

Eligibility: Applicant must

1. Be a Cape Coral resident
2. Be a high school senior
3. Demonstrate active and ongoing interest and participation in horticultural and/or environmental issues. This includes coursework, classroom projects and extracurricular activities – both in and out of school; it also includes work and volunteer experience.
4. Have a life goal related to the **Purpose of the Scholarships (see top of page)**

Timetable:

- 1 **Application must be submitted by email no later than Wednesday, February 19, 2025** to [Janice Johnsen](mailto:Janice.Johnsen@gardenclubofcapecoral.com) at: meritaward@gardenclubofcapecoral.com
2. Persons identified as references by the applicant must also email their recommendations by the February 19th deadline for the application as noted above.
3. Notification of award decisions will be made by Monday, March 3, 2025.
4. If you have question(s), email Janice Johnsen for more information.

Judging of Applications:

Members of the GCCC Merit Awards Committee will award points in four categories to each application. These points will be the basis for the scholarship awards. For more detailed information, see the attached scoring rubric used by the Committee.

1. Personal Recommendations – 20%
2. Extracurricular/Volunteer/Work Activities and Awards – 25%
3. All High School Classes – 25%
4. Personal Statement – 30%

Applicant's Name _____

The Garden Club of Cape Coral
Merit Scholarship Award Application

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY AND COMPLETELY

Name: _____ Date: _____

Full Address: _____

Phone Numbers(s) Cell: _____ Home: _____ Text(Y/N): _____

Email Address: _____ High School: _____

How did you learn about this scholarship? _____

Two References (not family members) to whom you will provide a copy of the Reference Form attached to this application. At least one reference should be a high school teacher or guidance counselor and one reference must be someone able to support or verify your activities related to the purpose of the scholarship.

1. Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

2. Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Print Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

List ALL Extracurricular Activities, Including School and Community Organizations, Volunteer Work and Employment. Show duration for each and roles - such as leader/officer, member, volunteer, employee, etc. (Provide complete names of organizations – no acronyms).

Name of Organization	Start Date	End Date	Role

Applicant's Name _____

List of Awards and Special Recognition Received

Date

List of Awards and Special Recognition Received	Date

Provide official Academic Listing(s) or Transcript(s) of ALL High School Level Courses – currently or previously taken.

Personal Statement (at least 250 words):

Provide **responses to all four** of the following:

1. How the **purpose of the scholarship** applies to you;
2. Your future commitment to preserving our natural environment; specifically, the details of: a personal experience; and/or your opinion and action on an issue; and/or a future goal;
3. The post-secondary institutions where you have applied, those where you have been accepted and your decision on where to enroll – if you have made one;
4. Career goals, including motivation for pursuing your intended major field in college and the likely work opportunities for you after college graduation.

Include this statement - typed on a separate page - with your application and submit it with your application by email.

APPLICANT NAME _____

RATING CRITERIA

RATING
COMMENTS

REFERENCES 20%				Max 20%
1. Level of academic achievement (max 5%) 2. Work ethic; motivation; curiosity (max 5%) 3. Character traits (max 5%) 4. Service to others (max 5%)	excellent multiple examples strong character traits exceptional service	strong sufficient examples favorable character traits adequate service	average limited examples adequate character traits minimal service	Subtotal
ACTIVITIES 25%				Max 25%
1. Connections to GC award (max 5%) 2. Leadership role (max 5%) 3. Award recognition (max 5%) 4. Level of volunteerism (max 5%) 5. Employment experience (max 5%)	specific connections confirmed by offices held indicates awards received exemplary level established employment	general connections identified leadership roles achieved recognition generous level recent employment	marginal connection memberships only limited or no recognition minimal volunteer level no employment	Subtotal
ALL CLASSES 25%				Max 25%
1. Advanced level classes (max 5%) 2. Environmental studies (max 5%) 3. Additional science courses (max 5%) 4. Rigor of academic courses (max 5%) 5. All other courses (max 5%)	majority are honors/AP level varied environmental studies at least three serious course load support post-secondary goal	some are honors/AP level at least two courses at least two moderate course load partly support goal	few or no honors/AP level fewer than two courses fewer than two adequate course load do not support goal	Subtotal

APPLICANT NAME _____

RATING CRITERIA

RATING
COMMENTS

PERSONAL STATEMENT 30%				Max 30%
<p>1. Goals align with award purpose (max 5%)</p> <p>2. Commitment to preserving natural environment and strong involvement (max 5%)</p> <p>3. Acceptance to college or university indicated (max 5%)</p> <p>4. Certainty of major field of study (max 5%)</p> <p>5. Discusses all four prompts (max 5%)</p> <p>6. Exhibits mature writing skills (max 5%)</p>	<p>goals specific to purpose</p> <p>very committed and strong involvement</p> <p>identifies institution(s) where accepted and/or enrolled</p> <p>very certain of major</p> <p>all four prompts addressed</p> <p>well-developed skills</p>	<p>goals somewhat related</p> <p>somewhat committed and some involvement</p> <p>names institution(s) where applications sent</p> <p>possible major field(s)</p> <p>three of four prompts addressed</p> <p>acceptable skills</p>	<p>goals not connected or undetermined</p> <p>minimal commitment and involvement</p> <p>preference for institution but application not mentioned</p> <p>major field undetermined</p> <p>two or fewer prompts addressed</p> <p>underdeveloped skills</p>	<p>Subtotal</p>
<p><u>Writing skills scoring:</u></p> <p>1 content - dev of topic</p> <p>2 organization – structure</p> <p>3 mechanics – spelling, punctuation, capitalization</p>	<p><u>Exhibits good writing skills</u></p> <p>*substantial content</p> <p>*well organized</p> <p>*minimal errors</p>	<p><u>Minor writing errors</u></p> <p>*adequate content</p> <p>*loosely organized</p> <p>*a few errors</p>	<p><u>Multiple writing errors</u></p> <p>*lacks content</p> <p>*disorganized</p> <p>*frequent errors</p>	
<p>TOTAL (Maximum is 100%)</p>				<p>TOTAL</p>

The Garden Club of Cape Coral (GCCC)

Reference for _____

Print Name of Applicant

This student is applying for a Merit Scholarship Award of up to \$2,000 from The Garden Club of Cape Coral (GCCC) and is requesting that you provide a recommendation for an award. The intent of the Garden Club scholarship program is to find and reward graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated serious interest and involvement in studies and activities dedicated to environmental preservation, horticulture, agriculture, biology/botany, natural resources, conservation or hydrology. Although not a requirement, applicants who have clear future goals in fields such as those just mentioned - either through their college studies and/or for life after college - may be judged more favorably. However, Club members recognize that current serious actual commitment to the environment is likely to resurface as future commitment; consequently, this is given greater weight during judging of the applications.

To the extent you are able, discuss applicant's level of academic achievement, work ethic, motivation, curiosity, character traits and service to others.

Please email your recommendation in **Adobe .pdf format by Wednesday, February 19th, 2025** to:

Janice Johnsen at meritaward@gardenclubofcapecoral.com

Thank you for your assistance.

Merit Award Scholarship Committee

The Garden Club of Cape Coral