

It's time to enter the youth contests! Detailed information is on the National Garden Clubs' website, [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org). Click on "youth programs" and then "youth contests" for information and forms, including the minor release form. All entries are sponsored by a garden club and you may find your participants at a local school, scout or other organization or among the children/grandchildren/young friends of your club. They should be Illinois residents. Include with each entry a signed minor release form. All entries must be postmarked by January 10, 2021. Each winning entry will receive \$25, payable to the sponsoring club.

#### Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

This contest is sponsored by the US Department of Agriculture and National Garden Clubs, Inc. It hadn't been updated by press time, but the rules have been pretty consistent. Please check the national website for current information and rules. There are terms used that don't reflect that garden clubs are sponsoring the poster entries. For example, the information refers to the "local chairman." The person from each club who sends me posters is the "local chairman." Be sure to send me the "local chairman report" and the "local chairman outreach report" with your posters. These are located under "additional references and information and downloads." Each poster must have the "printable poster sticker" attached to the back of the poster. This "sticker" is what we would call the "entry form." Children from grades 1-5 may enter. Each club may enter one poster for each grade. Posters may be folded. There will be a different deadline on the website, but please send them to me as stated above.

#### High School Essay Contest

2020-21 Theme: "Adapting our Actions to Protect our Natural Habitats"

Each club may send me one entry (just one for all grade levels, not one for each grade) and grades 9-12 may participate. Again, encourage any students you know to write an essay and send your club's best one to me.

#### Poetry Contest

2020-21 Theme: "Exploring Backyard Mysteries"

This contest is for students from Kindergarten to 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Each club may enter one poem for each grade level. The rules include that grandparents (in a garden club) may sponsor an entry. So, if you are at a family gathering, have a poetry session!

#### Youth Sculpture Contest

This contest is for students in grades 4-8. It is a fun project to make a sculpture from recyclable, reused and reduced materials. Submit a photo as described on the website. Be sure to use the entry form located under "Resources." Each club may send its winning entry for each grade.

Don't wait until the deadline, as soon as they are ready, I am ready to accept them! If you have any questions, please contact me. I hope you have fun with your youth and these contests!

Marilyn Krueger, Youth Activities Chairman, The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc.

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