

Benefits of Belonging to National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC), Central Region Garden Clubs, Inc. (CR), and Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. (MGC)

- **Quarterly Publications**
 - NGC 40+-page, *The National Gardener* is full of national, club and region news.
 - MGC 16-page, *Thru the Garden Gate* is full of state, district and club news
- **Newsletters**
 - **NGC President's Keeping in Touch**
 - **NGC Central Region Newsletter**
- **Annual Conventions/Annual Meetings:**
 - NGC: Hosted each year (usually in May) by a state(s).
 - CR: Hosted each year (usually in October) by a state within the region (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin)
 - MGC: Hosted each year (usually in June) by clubs/districts within Michigan

These provide:

- Educational seminars
 - Tours
 - Opportunity to meet fellow gardeners and share ideas and make new friendships. (across the country and international affiliates/region/state)
 - Opportunity to invite non-MGC members.
- **District Annual Meeting/Conference** at least one/year
 - Speaker/program/tours
 - Opportunity to meet fellow gardeners from across the district and share ideas and make new friendships.
 - Opportunity to invite non-MGC members.
 - **Websites** (NGC, CR, and MGC). An up-to-date website with much information available with some downloadable information. Each has a member-only side where more information is available.
 - **Education**
 - Classroom Style for the four NGC schools:
 - Gardening (GS)
 - Landscape Design (LDS)
 - Environmental (ES)
 - Flower Show (FSS)
 - Each school is composed of four courses generally held over a two-year period: The successful student of GS, LDS, and ES who is also a member of MGC earns NGC-Accredited Consultant status. After completing FSS successfully, the student who is a member of MGC earns NGC Accredited Flower Show Judge status.

Benefits of Belonging to National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC), Central Region Garden Clubs, Inc. (CR), and Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. (MGC)

- Refresher: Education to maintain GS, LDS, and ES NGC accreditation and opportunity to earn "Master status."
 - Symposium: Education to maintain FS NGC accreditation and opportunity to earn "Master status."
 - Consultants and Judges may join the Michigan Consultants Council (MCC) and the Michigan Association of Accredited Judges (MAAJ) respectively. These organizations provide additional educational opportunities. Provisional Consultants and Provisional Judges (those who have completed at least two courses in a series) may join MCC or MAAJ on a provisional basis.
 - NOTE: In order to maintain NGC accreditation, a consultant or judge must be a member of an NGC member organization and refresh their credentials by attending NGC-accredited education events in the required time period.
 - A person completing all schools successfully earns the 4-Star standing and after earning "Master Status" in all schools, earns the 5-Star standing.
 - Educational lesson plans, suitable for club programs, are available from NGC Member Services.
-
- **Calendar program.** Photographs from the photography contest are used in the production of the *Calendar of Beauty*.
 - **Exhibiting:** Entering horticulture, floral designs, botanical arts, and/or educational exhibits in NGC-accredited Standard Flower Show and opportunity to win a prestigious top award.
 - **Opportunity to serve others in leadership positions** at various levels: local, district, state, region or national, as well as at special events.
 - **District Leadership Development** Club Presidents, Vice Presidents and those interested in aspiring to become a leader have the opportunity to attend presentations to develop their leadership skills further.
 - **Youth Gardening Programs.** Youth gardening information on the NGC and MGC websites.
 - **Scholarships Available** for students in related fields of study.
 - **Programs/Projects:** Support available from NGC, CR, and MGC
 - **NGC and MGC Grants Available**

Benefits of Belonging to National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC), Central Region Garden Clubs, Inc. (CR), and Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. (MGC)

- **Annual Awards.** Club, MGC, CR, and NGC prestigious awards (some cash awards) available to adults and youth.
- Member garden clubs can advertise their events on the MGC Website calendar.
- **Eligible for 501(c)(3)** for voluntary participation in the MGC group tax exemption umbrella to those clubs who wish to participate.

A 501(c)(3) organization is recognized by the IRS as a non-profit organization and may solicit tax-deductible donations from corporations and individuals. The process of becoming a 501(c)(3) organization is usually too complex and expensive for most small clubs. The MGC program provides a simplified and less expensive process for getting this official status from IRS. In addition, the major benefit for applying for a 501(c)(3) is to limit member liability. If someone attending a club's meeting or event should happen to get injured, all the club's members could be sued equally.

- **Club officer and club organizing materials and assistance are available** from NGC and MGC.



Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. is a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. and Central Region, Garden Clubs, Inc.

www.Michigangardenclubs.org
www.nationalgardenclubs.org
www.ngccentralregion.org