

Why BE Federated?

Being Federated means being a member club of National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC)

Organizations: You will be a part of something BIG! Besides being a member of your local club, you will be a part of a district, state, region and national organization. National Garden Clubs, Inc. is the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world. There are 165,000 members, over 5000 local clubs, 60 national affiliates and 330 international affiliates.

Travel: You will have the opportunity to participate in field trips that may take you to faraway places. Through National Garden Clubs, Inc. you may travel to other neighborhoods, communities, states and countries to explore gardens, history, and flower shows.

Promote Awareness: NGC promotes education and awareness about the many aspects of horticulture, landscape design, environmental issues, gardening, floral design, and preservation and conservation of land and wildlife.

Education: NGC offers four schools to members. These are Gardening, Flower Show, Environmental and Landscape Design. These schools were developed to educate members and the public. With this knowledge, they can be better equipped to use their influence with public officials to work with competent professionals on community betterment projects.

Leadership: You will have the opportunity to develop or enhance your leadership skills.

Grants: NGC provides a number of grants for clubs including Plant America Community Project up to \$1000, Wildflower Operation up to \$500, and Natural Disaster USA Fund up to \$5000. College students may receive \$4000 scholarships for their education.

Fellowship of Volunteers: You will experience the pleasure and satisfaction of involvement in community service. We all receive many blessings when we

extend our hand to help others. Being a member automatically gives you a feeling of closeness to other members. You share the bonds of common interest.

Legacy: You have the opportunity to nurture a new generation of gardeners through scholarship programs, youth contests and promoting youth gardening activities in schools and public locations. We work together to make a difference in the lives of our children, and in our future.

Dues: State dues vary by state, but are nominal compared to other service and professional organizations. National Garden Clubs, Inc. dues are \$1.00 per member and are included in state dues. Therefore, join the state organization and you are automatically a member of National Garden Clubs.

State Garden Club: Your state garden club is a vital member of National Garden Clubs (NGC). Visit the state garden club section of the NGC website to find the contact information for your state's membership application procedure.

Network with Local Resources: After your club forms, make sure you introduce yourself to the community. Network with local resources like county extension agencies, colleges and universities and local nurseries and garden centers. Let others know what your club is all about and who can be contacted to answer questions or respond to inquiries. Find out what resources may be of benefit to the members of your club and what your club can offer to others in the community.

Whether starting your own club, or joining one that is already established, you'll enjoy the encouragement you receive from others, learn better ways to beautify your environment and get acquainted with like-minded members of your community.



Plant a New Club

How to Start a Federated Garden Club



National Garden Clubs, Inc.
www.gardenclub.org
Telephone: 314-776-7574
Email: headquarters@gardenclub.org

The Garden Club
of North Carolina, Inc.
www.gardenclubofnc.org
Telephone: 919-839-0686

How to Start a Club

Do you enjoy getting together with friends for fun? Do you love to meet new people and talk about the new plant you placed in your garden or the stunning floral design you made for your church? Wow! You are ready to start a garden club!

What type of garden club you have is your decision. You are the creator. Have fun and enjoy your club!

It is easy to start a garden club and National Garden Clubs, Inc. Membership Committee and your State Garden Club are here to help you. If you don't know how to contact your state garden club, just dial 314-776-7574 for National Garden Clubs, Inc. and ask to be in touch with the Membership Committee. We are eager for you to join and be part of the fun!

It takes only one person besides you to start a garden club!

Where to Find Members

Post flyers where gardeners frequent:

- ◆ Nurseries
- ◆ Garden Centers
- ◆ Botanical Gardens
- ◆ Libraries
- ◆ Book Stores
- ◆ Parks
- ◆ Organic Restaurants
- ◆ Food Co-Ops
- ◆ Environmental Stores
- ◆ Feed Centers
- ◆ Community Gardens
- ◆ Community Centers

◆ Social Media

- ◆ Take out a small classified ad in small local newspapers or neighborhood newsletters.
- ◆ Ask neighbors and friends to join.

Select a Club Name, Meeting Place and Time

You may select a name for your club now, if you are going to advertise for members, or you may wait until you have members and make it a group decision. Think of the possibilities!

Be as flexible as possible to accommodate busy schedules.

Set the date and time for the first meeting; then club members determine what day and time works best.

Free meeting rooms are often available at libraries, churches or community centers. Local nurseries might be willing to donate space in exchange for free advertising to club members.

Many clubs meet in a member's home. As your club membership grows, you may out grow space for new members. New members who do not know anyone in your club may be apprehensive about coming into someone's home. Then you may consider a public place for meetings.

Voting

Everyone has a voice in making decisions for the club. Voting can be by raised hands, by voice, by ballot or any other way that is fair. Remember: when decisions are made, the majority rules.

Club's Purpose and Goals

Decide what type of club are you want to have for example gardening, floral design, environmental, etc.

Possible Activities With Your Friends

Nursery Crawl: gather friends and travel to a variety of nurseries. **Demonstrations:** e.g., make hypertoufa pots. Construct a living wreath. Design small bouquets to take to the nursing home on Mother's Day or any day. **Garden Tour:** tour club members' gardens. **Plant Dig:** Help gardeners divide their plants and take a plant home as a remembrance. **Surprise Boxes:** Bring a box with a surprise inside for every member. Surprises may be a bulb, packet of seeds, small starter pots, etc. Do this for several meetings. Have the members guess what the surprise is and the winner gets the first pick. **Wind Chimes:** Construct wind chimes with colorful glass beads, bells and drift wood. **Caring:** Help a fellow gardener with his/her yard during illness. **Community:** Help a community project reach its goal.

Organize Your Club

- *Elect officers. Minimum number of officers needed is president, secretary and treasurer. As your club grows, you may want to add more officers and committee chairs.
- *Determine the amount of dues based on expenses of programs, rent and projects.
- *Write Bylaws: rules made by the club's members to provide order to a business meeting.
- *Standing Rules: rules that change often.
- *Secretary's Report: important decisions that occurred during the meeting.
- *Treasurer's Report: list of revenue, expenses and balance remaining.

Enjoy your club and club members!