

TGCI SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT

HISTORY:

- At the April 1958 Annual State Convention, garden club members gave their approval for the establishment of a scholarship fund. A committee was appointed to finalize the details, which were then approved at the Board of Directors meeting December 8, 1958.
- The scholarship was to be for \$300 a year, renewable for three additional years provided the scholarship record was acceptable and the student was still in need of financial assistance. The recipient would be chosen on the basis of scholastic record, character, and evidence of interest in his chosen field and need of financial assistance. The scholarship was available to any resident of Indiana at an Indiana college or university of his or her choice which had a recognized department in the chosen field. The purpose of the scholarship was to encourage the study of horticulture and allied subjects, such as conservation, biology, botany, etc. These criteria are still used today.
- To start the fund in 1958, the sum of \$539.00 was transferred to the newly established scholarship fund. All scholarship students attended Purdue until 1977 when the first scholarship was awarded to a student studying Landscape Architecture at Ball State University. It was also determined that scholarships would no longer be awarded to lower classmen, as it was felt there was a possibility they may change careers. Therefore, only junior, senior and graduate students are now eligible for scholarships.
- At the time of our 50th anniversary, each scholarship granted covered a full year's tuition. When tuition continued to increase, beginning with the 1987-1988 school year, it became necessary to change the grant to \$1,000 per year in order to be a larger benefit to the students.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

- Presently, there is a committee which goes to two universities and interviews student applicants who may become future garden club members, outstanding members of our communities and of the world.
- **Each year** before the end of the first semester, letters and an application form are sent to the department heads office at Purdue and Ball State. The appropriate departments of these schools then inform students of this opportunity.
- The cover letter and form are sent electronically, enabling students to provide required information and return electronically. Upon receipt, the scholarship chairman then shares them with the interview team.
- Applications are also accepted from students who have accessed the NGC website, and forwarded to the state scholarship chairman the completed information before the February 1st deadline.
- The interview schedule is set with all applicants at the schools or via phone. The interview team follows the point scoring that NGC has set, chooses the number of students according to donation allotment.
- The next step is to send the highest scored application as Indiana's applicant to the national scholarship chairman for review. This applicant, if chosen will then be awarded a \$4,000 scholarship.
- The interview team next chooses an applicant to send to the Central Region scholarship chairman to have the chance of being awarded a \$500 scholarship.
- Both of these applicants are automatically awarded the TGCI scholarship of \$1000.

FINANCIAL PROCESS:

- All of Your scholarship monies are sent to the university financial office where the monies are instructed by TGCI to be placed in their tuition each semester and/or book account.
- Any student going abroad has already made that decision before he or she is interviewed.

- Students at both universities are required to have internships and are encouraged to study abroad if at all possible.
- Especially in this ever growing smaller world it is most important for this type of education and study when available.

YOUR REWARD:

- Scholarship students and their professors are invited to attend the scholarship luncheon at each Annual State Convention therefore allowing us to interact with them and learn more about these students and their goals.
- At the same time letting the students know more about us and what we do, thus encouraging this student to continue having a relationship network with garden clubs or even joining one in the future.
- Our state is unique requesting this personal visit with scholarship recipients.

HOW: Supporting the Scholarship Project by funding a Scholarship Patron or a Gold Star for a club member is just one of the ways to contribute monies.

- Honorariums and Memorials are also another great way to acknowledge members without a specific required amount of money.
- Scholarship funds are accepted year round, by sending them to the Scholarship Chairman listed in the members only section of the on-line directory. Forms are on the website or through your district director.

GRATITUDE:

- TGCI is extremely grateful for the whole hearted support of the Scholarship Project from clubs and members.
- Students and their parents express gratitude over and over for our financial contribution to their education.
- Students also express gratitude for our interest in their education and their future.
- In turn we as parents, grandparents and gardeners are grateful for the contributions that these students are going to offer to our communities and in knowing that they are aware of protecting our environment into the future.
- The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. is especially proud of students who are presented with the Scholarship Reward and
- Are grateful for the work, donations and willingness from our members to enable TGCI to provide this opportunity to our young adults and non-traditional students.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS of \$4000 each are offered by NGC each year. Generally, 30-35 scholarships are awarded to students majoring in areas relating to gardening and the environment. Full information and application forms are available.

**TGCI is The Garden Club of Indiana*

**CR is Central Region Garden Club*

**NGC is National Garden Club*