



# In the Loop

## Keeping Up With Credentials

FLORIDA FLOWER SHOW JUDGES

JANUARY 2024

# What is Good Standing?

- ▶ Five (5) Levels of National Garden Clubs, Inc. Flower Show Judges
  1. Student Judge
  2. Accredited Judge
  3. Accredited Life Judge
  4. Accredited Master Judge
  5. Emeritus Master Judge

(Contact the state Credentials Chair for assistance to apply for Emeritus Status).
- ▶ Good Standing - A judge who is an active member of an NGC Garden Club, earns the required exhibiting and judging credits and refreshes at required intervals at approved Flower Show Schools or Symposiums.
- ▶ Good Standing Date – The date your credentials expire unless you refresh or request an extension from the state Credentials Chair.

# Find your current good standing date on ffgc.org

## FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

1400 S. DENNING DRIVE, WINTER PARK, FL 32789 (407) 647-7016 FFGC@FFGCMAIL.COM

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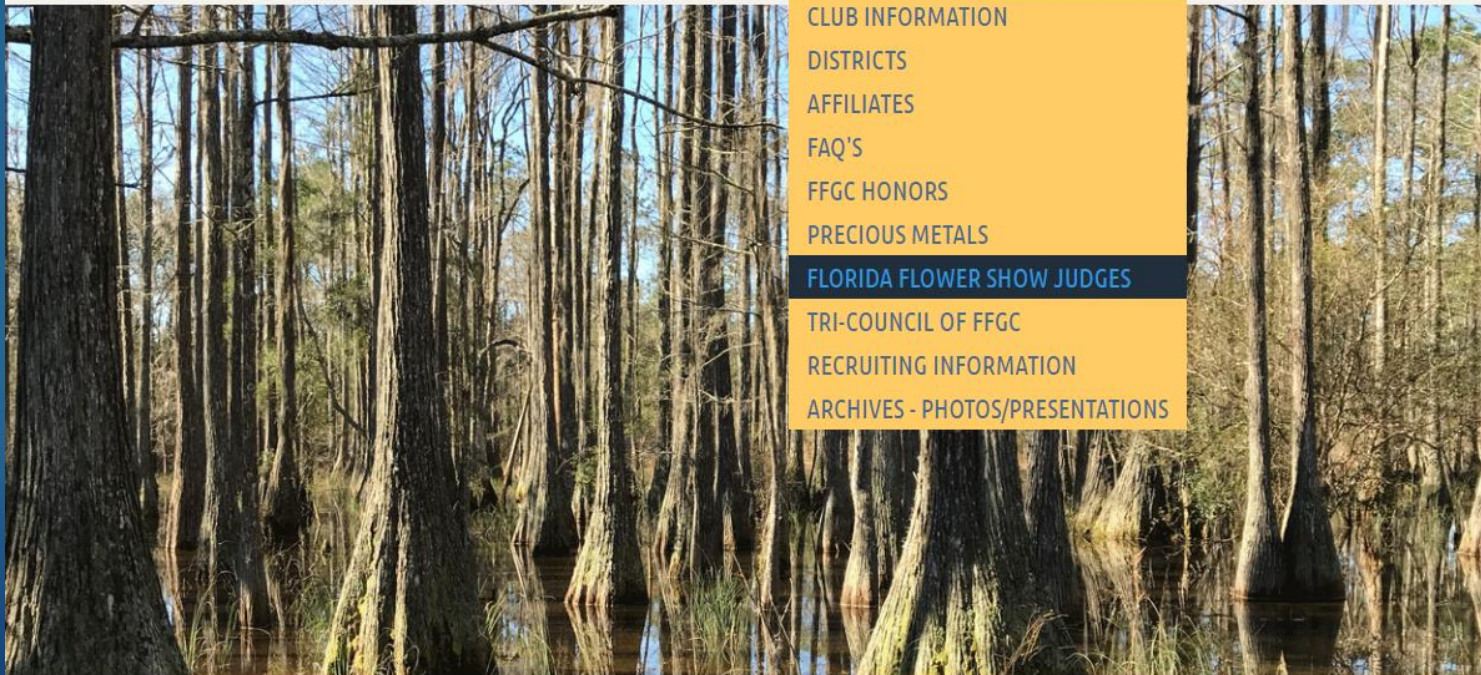
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FLORIDA FLOWER SHOW JUDGES

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# Click on the FFSJ Directory by District

[FFSJ Directory by District](#)

- ▶ You must login to [www.ffgc.org](http://www.ffgc.org) to access the Judges Directory
- ▶ Or request a copy from Barb Jacobson, Florida Credentials Chair.
- ▶ The Directory lists Florida judges, name, address, telephone number, email address, District, Judges level and Good Standing Date.
- ▶ Email all corrections to Barb Jacobson at [Chuck7503@aol.com](mailto:Chuck7503@aol.com)
- ▶ Corrections will be shared with the Executive Committee and the editor of Factual Notes.

# How do you advance your good standing date?

- ▶ Refresh your credentials at a Symposium every 3 years to remain in good standing. (By Dec. 31st of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year from the date of your last Symposium)
- ▶ Accredited Judges (only) may take Flower Show School III or IV as an alternative to a Symposium and only one time.
- ▶ Submit your application to attend a refresher to the state Credentials Chair (Barb Jacobson) for approval 1 month before attending the refresher (6 weeks if attending an out of state Symposium or school).
- ▶ Your application may be mailed or scanned and submitted as an attachment to an email. Keep a copy and all documentation in your personal file.

# Procedure to Refresh Credentials

- ▶ Accredited and Life Judges must register to take a Symposium for credit, attend all sessions, and take and pass the Horticulture and Design point scoring exams with a minimum score of 70.
- ▶ Master Judges must register to audit the Symposium. They do not point score but will receive credit if they attend all sessions.
- ▶ Following a Symposium the state Symposium Chair submits paperwork to NGC for Accreditation. The new Good Standing Date will be December 31 - three (3) years from the Symposium date. Example: For the November 2022 Symposium, the new Good Standing Date is December 31, 2025.
- ▶ Paperwork will also be submitted to NGC for judges that are eligible to advance their status to the next level (Accredited to Life or Life to Master).
- ▶ Accredited and Life Judges earn one (1) Judging Credit when taking an NGC Symposium for credit. The Judge must take and pass the point scoring exams to receive this judging credit.

# Forms For Recording Your Credits

Judges are responsible for maintaining their credentials records.

Keep a copy of your exhibiting and judging credit forms along with documentation to support them.

Keep a list of the refreshers you attend along with your graded point scoring sheets that are returned to you once the refresher is accredited by NGC.

Level	Form
Accredited Judge	FSS 13 (Form 13) Refresher Credit for Accredited Judges
Accredited Life Judge	FSS-15L (Form 15L) Renewal of Life Good Standing
Accredited Master Judge	FSS-15M (Form 15M) Master Judges Good Standing

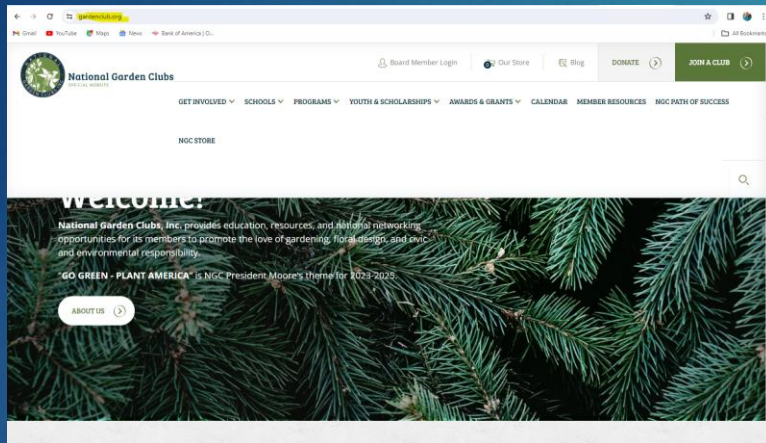
# Getting the Forms you need from the NGC Website

- Download the current fillable form for your judging level from the NGC web site at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)
- Shortcut – Scroll down to FORMS LIBRARY at the bottom of the home page. Select Flower Show Resources. Scroll down to the list under the heading “Flower Show School Forms”.
- Exhibiting and judging requirements for each refresher are provided on the forms. Refer to Chapter 12 in the Handbook for allowed Alternate and Additional credits.
- Open and save the form to a folder on your computer.
- Reopen the form, complete the information and save it to your folder.

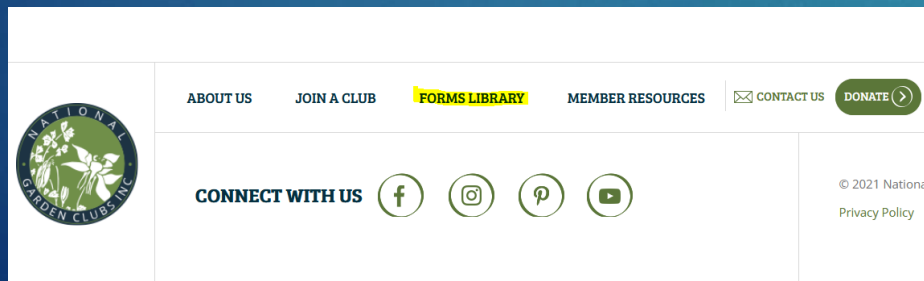


# Getting the Forms you need from the NGC Website

1. Go to [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)



2. Scroll down to FORMS LIBRARY at the bottom of the home page



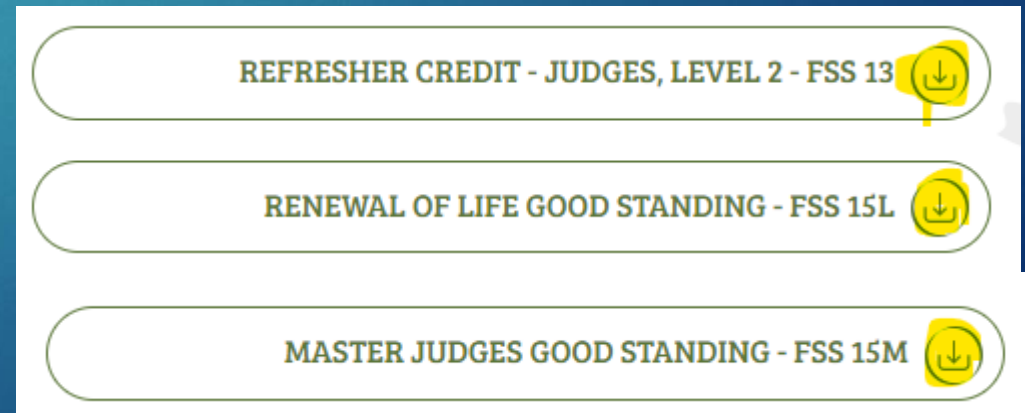
3. Click on the “Flower Show School Resources Page”

## Schools Forms

Visit our [Flower Show School Resources page](#) for FSS forms.

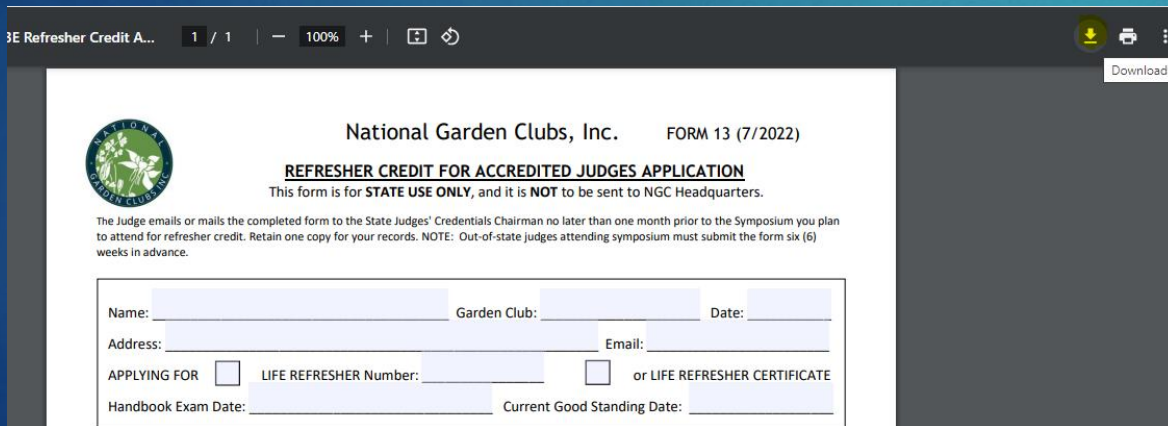
Visit our [Schools Resources page](#) for all other school forms.

4. Click on the arrow by the form you need to download it to your computer




# Getting the Forms you need from the NGC Website (Continued)

4. Open and download the form for your level and save it to a folder on your computer.



3E Refresher Credit A... 1 / 1 100% +

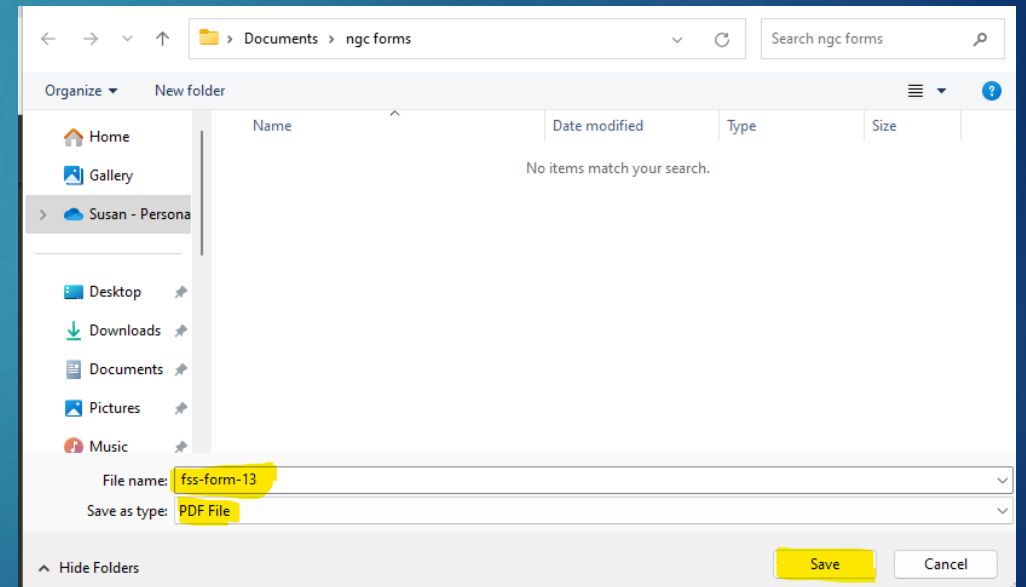
 National Garden Clubs, Inc. FORM 13 (7/2022)

**REFRESHER CREDIT FOR ACCREDITED JUDGES APPLICATION**  
This form is for **STATE USE ONLY**, and it is **NOT** to be sent to NGC Headquarters.

The Judge emails or mails the completed form to the State Judges' Credentials Chairman no later than one month prior to the Symposium you plan to attend for refresher credit. Retain one copy for your records. NOTE: Out-of-state judges attending symposium must submit the form six (6) weeks in advance.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Club: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
APPLYING FOR  LIFE REFRESHER Number: \_\_\_\_\_ or LIFE REFRESHER CERTIFICATE  
Handbook Exam Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Good Standing Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Download



5. Reopen the form, complete the information and save it to your folder.

# Advancing to the Next Level



## Accredited Judge Level 2

Refresh 3 x to advance  
to Accredited Life Judge

Pass point scoring (70+)

$\geq 4$  months,  $\leq 3$  years



## Accredited Life Judge Level 3

Refresh 2 x to advance  
to Accredited Master Judge

Pass point scoring (70+)

$\geq 4$  months,  $\leq 3$  years



## Accredited Master Judge Level 4

Audit (no exam)  
to maintain certification

Attend all sessions

$\leq 3$  years



# Requirements for Each Refresher

- ▶ Earn Judging Credits

- ▶ NGC Standard or Small Standard Flower Show: Judge a minimum of 6 classes (1 class in Horticulture, 1 in Design, 4 classes in any Division except the Photography Section of the Botanical Arts Division.
- ▶ Design Specialty Show: Judge three classes of Design or two classes of Design and one class in any other Division except the Photography Section of the Botanical Arts Division.
- ▶ Horticulture Specialty Show: Judge at least one class in Horticulture and five classes in Horticulture, Education, Youth/Sponsored, or the Botanical Arts Division except the Photography Section of the Botanical Arts Division.

- ▶ Earn Exhibiting Credits

# Judging Requirements for Each Refresher

## Accredited

Judge 3 NGC Flower Shows  
(minimum of 6 classes)

One (1) Alternate judging credit allowed

- Serve on the Master Panel for a Flower Show School or Symposium & pass point scoring exams
- Serve on Evaluation Panel of an NGC Flower Show
- Chair 2 Flower Show School Courses or 1 Symposium

One (1) Excess Judging Credit may be carried over to the next refresher (earned in the year prior to refreshing but not needed to meet requirements)

## Life

Judge 1 NGC Flower Show  
(minimum of 6 classes)

Alternate judging credit:

- Serve on the Master Panel for a Flower Show School or Symposium & pass point scoring exams
- Serve on Evaluation Panel of an NGC Flower Show
- Chair 2 Flower Show School Courses or 1 Symposium

## Master

Judge 1 NGC Flower Show  
(minimum of 6 classes)

Alternate judging credit:

- Serve on the Master Panel for a Flower Show School or Symposium & receive passing grade on point scoring form
- Serve on Evaluation Panel of an NGC Flower Show



# Exhibiting Requirements for Each Refresher

## Accredited Judge

Earn at least 2 exhibiting credits for each year or part of a year between refreshers

- 1 ribbon in Horticulture
- 1 ribbon in Design
- One (1) Alternate exhibiting credit
- Give a horticulture or design program to a garden club, judges council, or garden-related organization
- Serve as chairman of small standard, standard, or specialty flower show

## Life Judge

Earn 2 exhibiting credits for each year or part of a year between refreshers

- 1 ribbon in Horticulture (or Botanical Arts Horticulture)
- 1 ribbon in Design (or Botanical Arts Design including Exploration, or Artistic Crafts)

### One (1) Alternate exhibiting credit

- Provide a horticulture or design exhibit for practice or written point scoring exam in an NGC Flower Show School or Symposium
- Serve as chairman of small standard, standard, or specialty flower show

## Master Judge

Earn 2 exhibiting credits

- 1 ribbon in Horticulture (or Botanical Arts Horticulture)
- 1 ribbon in Design (or Botanical Arts Design including Exploration, or Artistic Crafts)

### One (1) Alternate exhibiting credit

- Provide a horticulture or design exhibit for practice or written point scoring exam in an NGC Flower Show School or Symposium
- Serve as chairman of small standard, standard, or specialty flower show



\*\* Only 2 exhibiting credits may be earned per show\*\*

# Additional Exhibiting Credits for Accredited Judges

Must have at least one ribbon in Design and one ribbon in Horticulture from an NGC flower show between Refreshers.

Only one credit in Horticulture and one credit in Design may be counted for each flower show.



## ADDITIONAL EXHIBITING CREDITS

May be used to meet requirements when there are multiple years between Refreshers.

- ▶ Earn exhibiting credits in any of the 4 Divisions: Horticulture, Design, Education, or Botanical Arts (except the Photography Section).
- ▶ Provide a judged or critiqued Horticulture or Design Exhibit for practice or written point scoring exam in an NGC Flower Show School or Symposium.
- ▶ Provide a Horticulture or Design Exhibit for a Judges Council, Arrangers Guild, or Study Group (Must be judged and point scored by Accredited Judges).

## Refreshers

Refer to the NGC web site at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)  
for listings of Flower Show School Courses and Symposiums

### Upcoming opportunities in Florida

Refresher	Dates	Location
Symposium	May 14-16, 2024	Cantonment (District I)
FSS III *	May 21-24, 2024	Bradenton (District VIII)
FSS IV *	Sept 24-27, 2024	Bradenton (District VIII)

\* Accredited Judges only may take Flower Show School III or IV to refresh and only one time.



# Presentation

Written By: Susan Hillson, Flower Show School Chair, Florida

Reviewed by: Barb Jacobson, Credentials Chair, Florida

Date: Original Presentation –

November 2021 for District X Judges Council

Updated - December 2023

Reference: NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

HANDBOOK FOR FLOWER SHOWS - Revised July 2023 - CHAPTER 12 JUDGES

Free download of the current Handbook

NGC web site at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) Forms Library

Flower Show School Resources