

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA JUDGING QUALIFICATIONS

Garden Club of Virginia judges are valuable and much-appreciated pollinators, *sharing their expertise and knowledge of our natural world and its beauty with others - demonstrating, teaching, and inspiring. The Artistic Design Committee has expanded the scope of activities to include, at the Committee's discretion, floral designs for community activities and judging at community flower shows and garden club meetings.*

For questions, more information, or if you need special assistance due to circumstance, please feel free to contact the Artistic Design Judging Coordinator(s).

Qualifications for Judging

Judging is the thoughtful process of assessing the work of others by qualified individuals. A Judge should possess the following qualifications and be competent to employ them in making critical decisions.

- **Knowledge:** acquired by attending GCV judging programs, passing the requirements of the GCV Judging Program, exhibiting in flower shows, attending workshops and lectures, and study of gardening and design styles.
- **Experience:** acquired from judging and exhibiting whenever possible.
- **Courage to uphold standards:** a Judge states her decision after careful consideration and backs it up with knowledge.
- **Tact and Kindness:** towards other judges, student and clerk members of the panel; offer fair and constructive comments based on the Principles and Elements of Design. Keep an open mind regarding the “intent” of the arranger and appreciate the imagination and skill developed in the exhibit.
- **Integrity:** fairness and impartiality are essential attributes in judging a GCV Flower Show. A Judge should not accept an assignment unless she feels knowledgeable in the area required and should not judge an exhibit done by her club or a member of her club.

Student Judge Qualifications

With approval of the Artistic Design Chairman, a Student Judge within a two-year period

- maintains a constitutional membership in a Garden Club of Virginia club
- attends two GCV-approved flower schools - one covering Traditional Styles and one covering Contemporary styles
- attends two Judge Certification Workshops given by the Artistic Design Committee/Judging Coordinator(s) - live or virtual
- passes two GCV exams - one online open book exam on Principles & Elements of Design and one point scoring exam
- serves as a clerk at one GCV-approved flower show, judging workshop, or judging webinar
- shadows an Accredited GCV Judge three times at a combination of at least one or more GCV flower shows and at two or more GCV Club meeting exhibit judging sessions or local flower shows
- exhibits in at least two GCV-approved flower shows, workshops, or webinars - live or virtual

- completes an online Judge's Annual Record form each year by December 31

Accredited Judge Qualifications

In each one-year period (January 1 to December 31), a GCV Accredited Judge

- maintains a constitutional membership in a Garden Club of Virginia club
- attends at least two GCV-approved floral design schools, workshops, or lectures - live or virtual
- attends at least two Judges Certification Workshops given by the Artistic Design Committee /Judging Coordinator(s) - live or virtual
- passes one online or other open book exam offered by the GCV Artistic Design Committee
- judges one GCV-approved flower show (live or virtual) OR judges three club meeting Artistic Design exhibitions, one of which may be the Judge's own GCV club meeting, and two of which may be other GCV member clubs or other community garden clubs
- exhibits in one GCV-approved flower show (live or virtual) OR exhibits as a teacher or demonstrator in a GCV-approved workshop webinar, flower school, or lecture OR provides four exhibits - two judged exhibits in the Artistic Design division at a GCV club meeting and two at a GCV club meeting or community flower event such as a flower flash, not-for-profit fundraising event, VMFA Fine Arts & Flowers, Philadelphia Flower Show, and others approved by the GCV Judging Coordinator(s).
- completes an Online Annual Record Form each year by December 31

Senior Judge Qualifications

After serving as an Accredited Judge for 10 years or more, an Accredited Judge in good standing may apply to the GCV Artistic Design Judging Coordinator(s) for Senior Judge status. When approved, a Senior Judge

- is invited to judge GCV flower shows
- participates as possible in GCV flower shows, workshops, and webinars
- keeps up to date with current floral design trends
- serves as a mentor to others
- completes one online open book exam
- submits an online Annual Record Form each year by December 31

Judge Emeritus

An Accredited Judge in good standing who wishes to become a Judge Emeritus may request Emeritus Status from the Artistic Design Committee Judging Coordinator(s).

A Judge Emeritus

- serves as a mentor to others
- is encouraged to participate as possible in GCV flower shows, workshops and
- is encouraged but not required to submit an Annual Record Form

GCV Board Members, Artistic Design Committee Members, Special Circumstance

Members serving on the Board of Directors of the Garden Club of Virginia and members serving on the Artistic Design Committee may choose to be exempt from judging or exhibiting requirements for the duration of their term(s). GCV Club members who need special assistance and possible exemption due to life circumstances are encouraged contact the Artistic Judging Coordinator(s) for help.

Please feel free to contact us with your ideas, input, and evaluations - we depend upon you for improvement and advancement. Thank you for your service.