



## GARDEN CLUB OF NEW HAVEN

### 2026 APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The Garden Club of New Haven is a working organization with a vibrant spectrum of opportunities for active engagement, collaborative learning, and civic contribution. We welcome New Haven area applicants with a shared commitment to involvement in and support of the Club's mission through participation in the Club's horticultural, environmental, design, civic, and organizational initiatives.

Membership obligations include active engagement in Club activities by attending monthly (October through June) general meetings, participating in committee work, and assisting with Club projects and events. There are many ways members can participate. While gardening, conservation, and design are core elements of the Club's mission, over two dozen committees focus on activities across a wide range of interests from garden history and visiting gardens, to photography, scholarships, and maintaining New Haven public spaces. Members are active participants who volunteer time and expertise to our projects and programs.

Candidates should review the membership responsibilities below for more information including Provisional (first year) orientation obligations and ongoing commitment to the Club's mission.

If you are interested in submitting an application or proposing a candidate, please contact Membership Chair Kel Ginsberg ([kel.ginsberg@gmail.com](mailto:kel.ginsberg@gmail.com)) to review the application process and address any questions. **The 2026 deadline for completed applications is March 27, 2026.**

#### MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES:

##### **Provisional Year Principal Expectations:**

Once accepted, new members participate in an initial Provisional orientation and educational year to introduce them to the membership and the myriad Club activities. These requirements enhance the membership experience and understanding of the Club, and candidates should be mindful of the significant time commitment of the Provisional year:

- Attendance at the Welcome Reception hosted by the Board and Committee Chairs
- Attendance at the June Annual Meeting for the announcement of the Provisional Class
- Attendance at monthly General Membership Meetings October through June
- Active service on at least one Club Committee
- Participation in the collaboratively designated "Provisional Project"
- Participation in Club civic projects, including maintenance of Phelps Triangle Park
- Attendance at one Board meeting as an observer
- Staffing the Welcome Table at one General Membership Meeting
- Provide refreshments for the Annual Meeting and a flower arrangement for one General Membership Meeting
- Payment of dues

##### **Ongoing Membership Expectations:**

- Participate regularly in General Membership Meetings, projects, and special events

- Contribute time and talent to at least one committee or initiative each year
- Support the Club's mission of horticultural education, conservation, and community beautification through personal involvement
- Participate in whole club activities such as workshops, flower shows, and tours
- Provide refreshments at designated General Meetings
- Sustained participation through committee work, event and meeting participation, and mentoring of new and fellow members
- Uphold the collegial, collaborative spirit of the Club by showing reliability, curiosity, and generosity of spirit.
- Payment of dues

#### **GARDEN CLUB OF NEW HAVEN COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS:**

- **Archives:** Preserving Club history through oral histories, photos, and newsletters.
- **Awards:** Documenting achievements and honoring outstanding contributions.
- **Civic:** Hands-on participation in community projects such as Holiday Workshops and Phelps Triangle beautification.
- **Communications:** Helping craft newsletters, web content, and press releases.
- **Conservation:** Engaging in environmental education, habitat restoration, and sustainability initiatives like the West River project.
- **Floral Design:** Participating in workshops and exhibitions celebrating artistry in flowers.
- **Garden History & Design:** Contributing to the photographic record of member gardens.
- **Horticulture:** Experimenting, learning, and competing in sweepstakes and shows.
- **Hospitality:** Supporting Club gatherings with creativity and warmth.
- **Membership:** Welcoming and mentoring new members.
- **Photography:** Developing artistic and documentary skills to record Club life.
- **Programs, Scholarship, Visiting Gardens, and Ways & Means:** Advancing the Club's mission through education, fundraising, and fellowship.

#### **GENERAL CALENDAR:**

- **General Membership Meetings:** October through June first Monday of every month at noon
- **Board Meetings:** September through May last Thursday of every month at noon
- **Phelps Triangle Member Volunteer Days:** a Saturday in mid-November and in mid-March
- **Committee Meetings and Events:** October through June by mutual agreement
- **Workshops, Tours, and Talks:** September through June by mutual agreement
- **Provisional Meetings:** by mutual agreement

#### **2025-2027 GARDEN CLUB OF NEW HAVEN DUES:**

- **Provisional Member Annual Dues:** \$200
- **Active Member Annual Dues:** \$225
- **Membership Dues include** membership to The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc., and the Garden Club of America.

For more information, contact Membership Chair, Kel Ginsberg at [kel.ginsberg@gmail.com](mailto:kel.ginsberg@gmail.com)

#### **LINKS:**

- Application Process and Timeline
- Application and Personal Statement Form
- Recommenders/Proposers Guidelines and Form