



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) 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

LINKS:

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



GARDEN CLUB OF NEW HAVEN

2026 APPLICATION PROCESS & TIMELINE

To apply for membership to the Garden Club of New Haven, candidates may either be proposed by a current member of the Club or self-propose by submitting an application directly to the Membership Committee. Candidates should review the **applicant guidelines** for more information about membership responsibilities, including Provisional (first year) orientation obligations and ongoing commitment to the Club's mission.

All applicants must attend one General Meeting, submit an **application form and personal statement**, and provide a **letter of recommendation** from an individual they know well, either a Club member or someone with whom they have worked in a volunteer or professional service capacity, with volunteer experience preferred.

APPLICATION TIMELINE:

- Should you wish to apply or propose a candidate, please let us know as soon as possible. Contact Membership Chair Kel Ginsberg at kel.ginsberg@gmail.com
- A complete application must be submitted by March 27, 2026 and include an application form, the candidate's personal statement, and one letter of recommendation.
- Membership decisions will be finalized in early May, 2026
- New Provisional members will be notified in May, 2026 and invited to an introductory Welcome Gathering of Board Members and Committee Chairs to be scheduled for the latter half of May
- Provisional members are expected to attend the Annual Meeting on June 1, 2026
- Provisional membership is effective July 1, 2026
- Provisional members are proposed for Active membership in May 2027.

For more information, please contact Membership Chair, Kel Ginsberg (kel.ginsberg@gmail.com)

LINKS:

- [Applicant Guidelines](#)
- [Application and Personal Statement Form](#)
- [Recommenders/Proposers Guidelines and Form](#)



GARDEN CLUB OF NEW HAVEN

2026 APPLICATION AND PERSONAL STATEMENT FORM

Please complete this application form, including your personal statement of interest, by **March 27, 2026**, and submit to the Membership Chair, Kel Ginsberg at kel.ginsberg@gmail.com

All applicants must also provide a letter of recommendation sent independently of your application from an individual you know well. Your recommendation letter may come either as a proposal from a Club member, or as a reference from someone with whom you have worked in a volunteer or professional service capacity, with volunteer experience preferred. [Recommendation/Proposal Form](#)

Your Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Recommender/Proposer Name, Email and Phone*: _____

Year of Birth**: _____

How did you find out about the Garden Club of New Haven? _____

* Please ensure your Recommender/Proposer has the appropriate form and deadline information.

** Optional information used for confidential membership category purposes.

Personal Statement:

In a few paragraphs, up to 250 words, please use your personal statement of interest to share with us:

- Who you are, what your personal interests are, your professional background, what you could bring to the Club, and why you would like to join the Club;
- How you might participate in the many areas of Club activity, in what area you would like to contribute, what committees and or activities spur your interest?
- Describe how you garden or engage in gardening activities, or your interest in landscape design, conservation, or other Club activities;
- In what other activities, volunteerism, or service do you participate?

In addition to helping us know more about you, your letter will help us connect you with members who can learn more about your interests and guide you through our membership process.

You may submit your Personal Statement below or as an attachment:



GARDEN CLUB OF NEW HAVEN

2026 RECOMMENDER/PROPOSER GUIDELINES AND FORM

Please submit this form and your letter directly to the Membership Chair, Kel Ginsberg, at kel.ginsberg@gmail.com by **March 27, 2026**.

Your Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Applicant's Name, Email and Phone: _____

Thank you for recommending a candidate for membership to the Garden Club of New Haven. We are looking for individuals who can take advantage of what the Club has to offer and contribute to the Club's activities through service on its committees and participation in its civic engagements. As you prepare your letter, the **Application Guidelines** might provide helpful background information about the time commitment, opportunities, and responsibilities of membership. Based on your knowledge of the applicant, in a few paragraphs, up to 250 words, please share with us below:

- how long and in what context have you know the candidate?;
- in what civic or volunteer activities does the applicant participate and in what capacity?;
- as a working, participatory organization, the Club requires a significant time commitment. How would you describe the candidate's level of civic and volunteer engagement, involvement and leadership?;
- in what ways would you expect the candidate to contribute to, and benefit from, the Club's activities?;
- any other aspects of the applicant's character and interests that would be helpful to the Membership Committee.

You may enter your letter below or submit as an attachment. The Membership Committee will hold it in the strictest confidence.