

# NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.



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## PRESS RELEASE

### CONTACT

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**Popular South Carolina Youth Camp Executive Director receives a prestigious award. Dan DuPre receives the Award of Excellence from National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

The members of National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) recently honored Camp Wildwood Executive Director, Dan DuPre with their prestigious Award of Excellence, the highest award presented by NGC to a non-member. The Award of Excellence honors an individual, organization, or institution that has made significant contributions toward the advancement of the goals and purposes of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

DuPre has been employed, for over 22 years, with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and considers it his dream job. He is the Executive Director and Special Events Coordinator for a popular youth camp at King's Mountain, South Carolina. DuPre attributes his love and passion for his job to when he was younger and spent one week of summer at the camp. During that week, he learned a new direction in life. Now each year, he joyfully witnesses the life-changing experiences of the campers that attend Camp Wildwood.

The Garden Club of South Carolina, Inc. established Camp Wildwood in 1954 to encourage outdoor activity and conservation efforts in the state. During the past 34 years, due to DuPre's leadership and his singular vision, the camp has become one of the most popular camps in the nation. The curriculum of conservation, habitat preservation, leadership, and environmental protection has influenced thousands of young South Carolinians to pursue degrees in horticulture and environmental sciences.

DuPre's philosophy is "to cultivate the whole camper." His love for nature and knowledge of teaching, developing, and inspiring young people to be citizens and protectors of nature are inspirational.

DuPre's connection to Camp Wildwood goes back to 1989 when his grandmother told him he was going to attend the camp that summer. That was the first DuPre had heard of Camp Wildwood and he was not very happy about it. But as with all first-time campers, by the end of the week, he did not want to leave! He was voted the boy 'Camper of the Week' and won a scholarship from The Garden Club of South Carolina. During that summer, DuPre learned that his grandfather had built the camp cabins, in the 1930s, as part of the Civilian Conservation Corps, a public works program. This was destiny!

DuPre's link to the campers is his ability to establish personal relationships with each camper. With all his years at Camp Wildwood, he has become a living legend. So much so, that he might as well be one of the mighty oaks at the camp! Dan DuPre is Camp Wildwood personified! He is tireless in his ambition to ensure that Camp Wildwood offers each camper what it gave to him so long ago. He now pays it forward so others see how a place like Camp Wildwood can make a difference as it has in the lives of over 6,000 children that have passed through the outstanding program. It is extraordinary for someone to spend so much of their time fulfilling the needs of others.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. currently has over 5000 local clubs, with 145,000 members, and over 330 international affiliate clubs. The organization provides education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic, and environmental responsibility. **Learn more about National Garden Clubs, Inc. <http://gardenclub.org>**

**Dan DuPre's picture is located at: <https://www.gardenclub.org/2023-award-excellence>.**

Sincerely,

Donna Marie

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