



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



National Garden Clubs, Inc.

2026 Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest INFORMATION



Hosted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs, Inc., this contest is an opportunity for local garden clubs to connect with their communities and may be used to **promote** their local or State garden club, **attract** children and their parents, and **raise awareness** of the importance of caring for the environment and preventing wildfires.

- Only children from first through fifth grade can participate. You can reach out to schools, scout troops, after school programs, youth programs, and similar groups.
- Students should be reminded to check spelling as posters with spelling errors will be disqualified.
- The following information must be written on the back of each poster: The student's name, grade level, garden club name, garden club contact name address, phone number, school, teacher's name, school name, parent or guardian name and address, phone number and email. (Should school policy preclude giving students' addresses and phone numbers, please include the school address and phone number.)
 - Or use the free downloadable label found at www.symbols.gov/ngc-poster-contest.
- Local garden club coordinators for the Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest should contact their State or regional poster chairman to get the promotional package. You can also download the promotional package from the National Garden Clubs, Inc., website, www.gardenclubs.org or from www.symbols.gov/ngc-poster-contest.
- Every participating child should receive a certificate of participation. Certificates can be ordered for free at www.symbols.gov or www.symbols.gov/ngc-poster-contest.
- Local and State garden clubs' poster coordinators are encouraged to organize recognition ceremonies.
- If there is a Forest Service office nearby, they can help facilitate the presence of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl at your recognition ceremony. You can find your nearest Forest Service office by visiting www.fs.usda.gov.
- We encourage participants and/or local, State, and regional chairpersons to make copies of the posters before submission.
- The five posters that compete for the national grand prize become property of the Forest Service. They ARE NOT returned to participants.
- For information about the poster contest do not hesitate to contact the National Garden Clubs, Inc., national coordinator for the poster contest, Terry Critchlow at tchritchlow@aol.com or the Forest Service national coordinator for the poster contest, Iris Velez at iris.velez@usda.gov.

**Thank you for your support and commitment to the partnership between
the National Garden Clubs, Inc., and the Forest Service!**

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