The Garden Club of Cape Coral

**Merit Scholarship Awards Information and Guidance 2024**

Awards in honor of Marty Ward & Donna Conway, Founders & Members of the Club

**Purpose of Scholarships:** The intent of the Garden Club scholarship program is to find and reward graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated serious interest and involvement in studies and activities dedicated to environmental preservation, horticulture, agriculture, biology/botany, natural resources, conservation or hydrology. Although not a requirement, applicants who have clear future goals in fields such as those just mentioned – either through their college studies and/or for life after college - may be judged more favorably. However, Club members recognize that current serious actual commitment to the environment is likely to resurface as future commitment; consequently, this is given greater weight during judging of the applications.

**Award Details:** Awards of up to $2,000 to each winner will be presented at the GCCC evening meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 2024. Winners should be present to receive their awards. Verification of acceptance at an accredited institution of higher learning is required prior to providing the award. Awards are not based on financial need. Each award is provided directly to the winner and can be used for any college related expenses. Larger awards may be provided to winners who plan to pursue careers compatible with the **purpose of these scholarships**. The application is available under the Awards Tab at [www.gardenclubofcapecoral.com](http://www.gardenclubofcapecoral.com) .

**Eligibility:** Applicant must

1. Be a Cape Coral resident

2. Be a high school senior

 3. Demonstrate active and ongoing interest and participation in horticultural and/or environmental issues. This includes coursework, classroom projects and extracurricular activities – both in and out of school; it also includes work and volunteer experience.

 4. Have a life goal related to the **Purpose of the Scholarships (see top of page)**

**Timetable:**

1 **Application must be submitted by email no later than Friday, February 20, 2024** to Janice Johnsen at: meritaward@gardenclubofcapecoral.com

 2. Persons identified as references by the applicant must also email their recommendations by the deadline for the application as noted above.

 3. Notification of award decisions will be made by Monday, March 4, 2024.

 4. If you have question(s), email Janice Johnsen for more information.

**Judging of Applications**:

Members of the GCCC Merit Awards Committee will award points in four categories to each application. These points will be the basis for the scholarship awards. For more detailed information, see the attached scoring rubric used by the Committee.

1. Personal Recommendations – 20%

2. Extracurricular/Volunteer/Work Activities and Awards – 25%

3. All High School Classes – 25%

4. Personal Statement – 30%