



FFGC Award Application Cover Sheet 2025-2027

Complete this cover sheet and additional pages as noted below.
Email your completed application to the FFGC Awards chair, Sylvia Swartz:
sswartzffgcawards@gmail.com. Most awards are due November 27, 2025.
Check Awards Handbook for variations.

FFGC Award #	43	Category/ Class	B	FFGC Award	BLUE STAR/GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKE
Name of Group/Club/Individual applying for Award	Awards Committee				
Club	Lake Placid Garden Club			Number of members	104
Contact Name	Doris Rohner			FFGC District #	IX
Email	gardenclub4me@gmail.com			Phone	954.792.7500
Address	156 Red Water Pt				
City	Lake Placid			ST. FL	Zip 33852
Name of Club President	Doris Rohner			Email:	gardenclub4me@gmail.com
Phone	954.792.7500				
Is this project new?	Yes	Continuing from previous work?	Yes	Ongoing?	Yes
Beginning date	8-2025	Expected completion date	12-2025		

Complete this cover sheet and attach the following information (**do not exceed 3 additional single-sided sheets unless you are submitting a BOE which requires more pages**).

1. A brief summary and objectives of the project;
2. Description of the involvement of other club members, other organizations, etc. ;
3. Project expenses and means of funding;
4. Continuing involvement, follow-up, or maintenance;
5. Include Landscape plan if applicable – does not need to be professionally drawn;
6. Photos as applicable (inserted into your document – do not send photo prints).

All award applications are to be typed and submitted electronically unless otherwise noted in the award description. Applicants must use this cover sheet and may attach up to three additional single-sided pages. Indicate the Award Name and Number and the name of the applicant on each sheet. Number the pages .



PO Box 2193, Lake Placid, FL 33862
www.lakeplacidgardenclub.org

November 8, 2025

Award# 43

Award Name: BLUE STAR/GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKER AWARD

Applicant Name: Lake Placid Garden Club

To: Sylvia Swartz
FFGC Awards Chair

Re: Blue Star Memorial Landscape Project
Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker

1. A brief summary and objectives of the project;

The Blue Star Memorial Garden project, led by Mark Ponsler and Donna Ferchen, is a heartfelt and collaborative initiative dedicated to honoring the brave men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Through their leadership, the garden has become a living tribute that blends natural beauty with patriotic significance. Thoughtfully designed and carefully maintained, it embodies deep respect and gratitude for those who have sacrificed for our nation, providing a peaceful and inspiring space for reflection and remembrance.

2. Description of the involvement of other club members, other organizations, etc.

Members of the club, along with support from other community partners, played an essential role in bringing this project to life. They devoted countless hours to installing a new sprinkler system, planting and caring for the garden, and continuously improving its appearance throughout the season. Thanks to their collective effort, the space now stands as a living reflection of cooperation and appreciation. Before this transformation, the area around the memorial marker had been in poor condition, marked by erosion and overgrown weeds. Several members of the American Legion, non club members, donated funds to help with the expense of creating the garden.

3. Project expenses and means of funding;

All labor for the project was In-Kind. The club was responsible for a portion of the plants and supplies. Mark Ponsler was reimbursed.



Award#43

Award Name:Blue Star/Gold Star Memorial Marker Award

Applicant Name:Lake Placid Garden Club

SEP 11 5B719(ITP,MARK PONSLE,2334038,ELECTRONIC BILL PAY
2025

- \$134.71
\$3,239.17

4. Continuing involvement, follow-up, or maintenance;

The American Legion Post 25 has been so generous in opening their doors to us for our monthly meetings, and we are truly grateful for their kindness. As our way of saying thank you, club members lovingly tend the Blue Star Memorial Garden each month and care for the raised flower beds that surround the American flag. It's a small gesture of appreciation—but one that allows us to share our love of gardening while adding beauty to our hometown of Lake Placid, Florida.

Throughout the garden, small markers honor the memory of deceased veterans and members of the American Legion. During the recent renovation, one broken marker was discovered. It was carefully cleaned and repaired by Toni Surface, a thoughtful friend of our club and the Legion. The marker honors Raymond Ricketts, who served our country from 1942 to 1968 and was the beloved husband of longtime LPGC member, Trudy Ricketts (pictured bottom right).

This project truly reflects the spirit of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC)—honoring our veterans, showing love for our community, and beautifying the places we share. The Blue Star Memorial Garden stands as a living tribute to those who served and a reminder of how nature, gratitude, and community can bring people together in the most meaningful ways.

5. Include Landscape plan if applicable – does not need to be professionally drawn;

NONE

6. Photos as applicable (inserted into your document – do not send photo prints).

A big thanks to Mark Ponsler for doing the digging, planting, shoveling, leveling the ground, and even setting up the sprinkler system — with awesome help from Donna, Ferchen, Cecilia, Chuplis, Sherill Trevino, Vicki, Maxwell and several others!



Award #43

Award Name: Blue Star/Gold Star Memorial Marker Award

Applicant Name: Lake Placid Garden Club

SEP 11 2025 5B719ITP,MARK PONSLER,2334038,ELECTRONIC BILL PAY

- \$134.71

\$3,239.17

Members worked hard to create a unique garden.



Mark Ponsler hard at volunteer work maintaining the garden around the flag pole.



Respectfully submitted,

Doris Rohner

Doris Rohner
President
LPGC
954.792.7500



Personal markers for those that served