

HAMPTON CLEAN CITY COMMISSION'S

Beautiful Y.A.R.D.S. Contest

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- 1.** The purpose of the program is to demonstrate the principles of a distinctive yard; to correlate beauty and environmental friendliness; and to encourage Hampton residents to encourage Hampton residents to use sustainable landscape management practices.
- 2.** The title of the contest shall be: The Hampton Clean City Commission Beautification Y.A.R.D.S. Contest (Yards Are Really Distinctive Showplaces).
- 3.** The contest is open to all Hampton residents with yards in the City of Hampton and military bases within the boundaries of the City of Hampton.
- 4.** Participating YARDS Judges will not have any affiliation with nominees.
- 5.** Eligible yards must be designed and maintained by the resident. The use of professional services for labor intense purposes is acceptable and will not disqualify a nominee. (i.e., lawn mowing, soil aeration, lawn seeding, mulching, water irrigation lines, and fertilization).
- 6.** Artificial plants will be rated as a deduction during the judging.
- 7.** The contest will be conducted from May through September. Winner determinations will be provided to the appropriate media for public announcement.
- 8.** Only one entry per year per yard will be permitted. A previous Yard of the Year winner may be nominated after a one year absence. Once a yard is nominated, the nomination will remain active until the end of the contest season.
- 9.** Contestants may be nominated by others or may nominate themselves by contacting Hampton Clean City Commission (HCCC) at www.hampton.gov/cleancity – scroll to Nominate a Yard Quick Link on the right. Once nominated, an application form and pre-evaluation questionnaire will be issued to contestant. Completed forms must be submitted to HCCC.
- 10.** The nomination form and questionnaire will be used to schedule visits by judges, determine if any specific environmental or horticultural items should be discussed with the contestant, and for publicity purposes as appropriate.
- 11.** Evaluations shall be conducted by HCCC Beautification Committee members, including the Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners, Hampton Women's Club, and other volunteers, while utilizing evaluation guidelines developed by the committee. The same guidelines will be used for all yards evaluated in a calendar year.
- 12.** Yard of the Month winners will be selected each month. Awards shall consist of a "Yard of the Month" sign placed in the winning yards and those will become property of the winners. In addition, winners may receive gift certificates from participating sponsors. Yard of the Month winners will be those with the highest scores of the nominees for the month, with a minimum of 65 points. If no nominees achieve a score of 65, then no winners will be selected that month.
- 13.** Yard of the Month winners will receive certificates or other premiums from local business that support the YARDS Contest. These sponsors will receive a Certificate of Appreciation at the beginning of each season.
- 14.** A "Yard of the Year Award" shall be awarded each year with the winner being selected from the Yard of the Month winners with the highest scores, approximately six winners.
- 15.** Personal information provided by nominees or contestants will not be used for any other purpose other than in relation to the YARDS contest. If a nominee has indicated "no publication", judges will not photograph any identifying information at the residence, such as the address, street signs, or house number.
- 16.** New YARDS Judges must attend the training in April in order to be able to score yards. If new judges cannot attend the training, they can attend judging events but are not allowed to submit scores.