

Yard of the Month Program

The purpose:

The yard of the month program is intended to inspire residents of the West Point community to take pride in the appearance and upkeep of their yards and the exterior of their quarters.

This is a community program that is primarily run by the community mayors with the assistance of the Garrison staff. The Program will run from June through October (October is weather dependant). The program will be shaped by the community mayors and residents.

The housing areas will be divided into 9 areas. There will be at least one mayor in each area. The mayor(s) of each area will evaluate their area(s) as outlined in appendix B, they may solicit volunteers within their community to assist them, and select the three best yards from their area based on the checklist in Appendix A. By the 20th of the month they will submit those three finalists to Garrison Headquarters.

The Garrison CSM will evaluate all yards in each area identified by the mayor and take digital photos of them. The Garrison staff (TBD, propose GC, CSM, GCEA, HSG rep, IVC, possibly mayors or area coordinators) will vote for one of the three finalists by view the photos electronically. The yard with the most votes wins. The CSM can answer any questions by the staff members that are not clear in the photos since he's been on the ground and seen the yards.

By the end of the month the winner for each area will be announced from the Garrison HQs to the mayors. Winners from each area will gather at the AAFES Garden Shop for official presentation of incentive awards. The Pointer View will be notified by the 1st of the month so the article announcing the winners will run in the next available addition of the paper along with a group photo of all the winners. At 1600, on the 1st Friday of each month we would ask that all winners be present at the PX Garden Department for a drawing for grand prizes.

Evaluation standards:

The yards will be evaluated by the checklist in Appendix A. There are many different types and sizes of yards; this will be taken into consideration by the evaluators when selecting a winner. Additionally, educational information on lawn and yard care is available at self-help and is frequently presented in the Pointer View.

Incentives:

- Each area winner will have an “**Area Yard of the Month**” sign in their yard during the following calendar month. A drawing will be held for all area winners at the Garden Center during the photo opportunity for the incentive prizes listed below:
- Two certificates for a free brunch at the West Point Club.
- A family coupon packet for one free game of bowling at the West Point Bowling Center
- A \$100 gift certificate to be used for purchasing merchandise in the Garden Shop.

Limitations:

The Yard of the Month can only be won once during the season. Based upon the assessment of mayors and judges, it is possible that an area could be excluded from having a YOM. Areas and homes that have professional contracted yard maintenance will not be included in the competition.

Appendix A, Evaluation Checklist

1. Lawn mowed neatly; low spots filled with topsoil; no brown spots in grass?
2. Lawn and flowerbeds are free of leaves and grass clippings; area walks swept?
3. Sidewalks and driveways edged? (includes around foundations, patios, trees ...)
4. Very few weeds in lawn and cracks of sidewalks/driveway?
5. Mulching flowerbeds/bushes/trees?
6. Appearance and condition of flowers?
7. Bushes trimmed neatly (no higher than bottom of window sills except for corner or "Specimen" bushes & trees)?
8. Name properly displayed? (rank, last name, first initial)
9. Front yard clear of clutter, garbage cans, litter, etc. (most visible area from street)?
10. Overall appearance — is it neat and clean (water hose neatly stored when not in use)?

Appendix B, Breakdown of housing areas

The housing areas are broken down into ten groups with consideration to size/type of yard and number of quarters.

1. Grey Ghost (Mayor)
2. Stony II (Mayor)
3. Lusk (Mayor)
4. Stony I, Lower Quints (Mayor)
5. Stony I, Upper Doubles (Mayor)
6. Washington Road/Spec Cat 128 Biddle Loop/Dunover
7. Sr. Enlisted (Merritt)/ Band (Mayor)/Old Brick (Mayor?)
8. New Brick (Mayor)
9. Lee (Mayor)/ LTC Spec Cat (Mayor) & Old Hosp