

# MGC Dedication Guidance

It is important to make your club's Blue or Gold Star Dedication an event that is meaningful for your members and your community.

To help you with your planning below is a list of guidelines based on lessons learned from previous dedications that you may find helpful in ensuring a successful dedication.



1. The following MGC (Michigan Garden Clubs) Officers should receive an invitation to your dedication event: President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, your District Director and the Blue & Gold Star Chair. Invitations may be mailed or emailed. The MGC Board Roster - with contact information - is available in the Member Resources area of the MGC website under **Organizational Information**.
2. If you would like the MGC President, District Director and/or Blue & Gold Star Chair to participate in your ceremony, you must coordinate the date with their availability. (Please add your event to the MGC calendar once your date has been finalized. Here's the link: <https://migardenclubs.org/events>.)
  - It is customary *but not required* for the MGC President to present your club with an MGC Certificate and to dedicate your marker(s).
  - It is customary *but not required* for either your District Director or MGC Blue & Gold Star Chair to provide the history of the Blue and/or Gold Star Program.
3. You may find it beneficial to add representatives from the following organizations to your committee.
  - If you are dedicating a Gold Star, consider involving representatives of our State and Local Gold Star Families. Here's the link: <https://americasgoldstarfamilies.org>
    - While the Gold Star Program is affiliated with Gold Star Families, there is also a Gold Star Mothers organization. Consider reaching out to Gold Star Mothers as well.
  - If you are dedicating a Blue Star, consider involving representatives of our State and Local Blue Star Mothers. Here's the link: <https://president.deptmi@bluestarmothers.us>
  - Military personnel and Veteran Organizations that you plan to involve in dedication.

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4. Consider arranging special seating areas for Blue Star Mothers and/or both Gold Star Families and Gold Star Mothers. Member clubs have previously used blue ribbon around chairs and gold ribbons around chairs to mark the seating areas.
5. If you are dedicating a Gold Star, consider handing out single-stem yellow roses to Gold Star Family members and Gold Star Mothers. RSVPs can help with estimating the number of roses.
6. When you have both a Blue and Gold Star, please honor the following physical placement guidance when possible. If the placement of the first memorial presents an issue in following this guidance, no worries.
  - If they are placed vertically, the Gold Star marker should be placed above the Blue Star marker.
  - If they are placed horizontally, the Gold Star marker should be placed to the left of the Blue Star marker as you face them.
7. If you are dedicating a single marker, consider the following Program order but please note that unveiling after the dedication is solely for dramatic effect, feel free to swap these two. Also, there is no right or wrong order, this flow simply seems to work well.
  - History
  - Certificate Presentation
  - Dedication
  - Unveiling
  - Placement of Wreath
8. If you are dedicating both a Blue and Gold Star, consider the following Program order but please note that unveiling after the dedication is solely for dramatic effect, feel free to swap these two. Also, there is no right or wrong order, this flow simply seems to work well.
  - History of Blue & Gold Star
  - Certificate Presentation (both Blue and Gold)
  - Blue Star Dedication
  - Blue Star Unveiling
  - Gold Star Dedication
  - Gold Star Unveiling
  - Placement of Wreath(s)
9. If you are dedicating a Gold Star and rededicating a Blue Star, consider rededicating the Blue Star first and following the Program guidance above.

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10. It is best to secure Color Guards early in your planning as they often have busy schedules. Color Guards will generally scope the area of your dedication and decide entrance and positioning location.
11. Capture the essence of your event through photos. MGC posts key information about each dedication at our website (marker number, marker type, club, dedication date and location/pin). Please email or text your photos to the Blue & Gold Star Chair along with any additional information you would like added, including captions for your photos.
  - Consider perusing our Album of Installations at the MGC website for Blue and/or Gold garden ideas and other useful information. Here's the link: [Blue and Gold Star Memorials \(migardenclubs.org\)](https://www.migardenclubs.org/blue-and-gold-star-memorials)

### Additional Information

- ❖ NGC (National Garden Clubs) has a handbook that you may find helpful with your planning.
  - Here's the link: <https://www.gardenclub.org/blue-and-gold-star-memorials>  
Simply click on **Guidelines** under **Blue and Gold Star Ordering Details**.
  - This link is also available at our MGC website.
- ❖ MGC offers monies via the **Plant America Grow and Share Small Grant Program** to help fund your efforts. Additionally, many member clubs have been successful obtaining donations from their community.
  - Here's the link to the application: [Club-Grants-Application-2-2024.pdf \(migardenclubs.org\)](https://www.migardenclubs.org/club-grants-application-2-2024.pdf).
  - Download the application to your device, fill in the required fields and email it to our current Grants Administrator. Use the MGC Board Roster to identify the Grants Administrator. The MGC Board Roster - with contact information - is available in the Member Resources area of the MGC website under **Organizational Information**.