



## GCAA Application Questions

GCAA is open to all communities in Texas. For more information: [ktb.org/gcaa](http://ktb.org/gcaa)

### Community Leadership and Coordination – 12 Points

1. Describe your community and its specific characteristics (i.e., brief history, demographics). (125 Words)
2. Texas is one of the fastest growing states in the country. How has your community adapted and worked to address the changes it is experiencing? (125 Words)
3. How have partnerships with state or national organization(s) related to litter prevention, beautification, community improvement and/or waste reduction helped increase the impact of your community's work? (100 Words)
4. How are your community improvement programs (programs focused on litter prevention, beautification, and waste reduction) organized, structured and funded? Describe support (staff and volunteers) for your community improvement programs. (125 Words)
5. How are your community leaders, including those in charge of community improvement programs, staying up to date with best practices and changing information related to litter prevention, beautification, and/or waste reduction? (75 Words)

### Public Awareness and Outreach – 12 Points

1. Describe outreach efforts and how your community made the general public aware of your community improvement programs through the use of media, speeches, social media, websites, events, workshops, bulletin boards, technology and/or printed materials. List measurable results. (150 Words)
2. What efforts does your community use to reach diverse or underserved audiences? (75 Words)
3. How has your community worked to promote the Don't mess with Texas® campaign, Adopt-a-Highway, or the Keep Texas Beautiful program? (125 Words)
4. Describe how community awards and recognition programs have helped increase local support of your community improvement programs. Note awards offered by your program and those it has received. (100 Words)
5. What educational events, projects or programs are available in your community to teach the general public about recycling, waste reduction, litter prevention or beautification issues? List impact and measurable results. (200 Words)

### Environmental Education – 12 Points

1. What types of environmental (solid waste/recycling, water reduction, energy savings, etc.) education do your community's schools offer? Describe what kind and how many programs or special events are offered for youth and your community's involvement. Include any youth, preschool, elementary, secondary, and college/university programs in your community. (150 Words)
2. How do your community's schools use environmental curricula such as Project Wild, Waste in Place, Project Learning Tree, and/or other educational activities or outdoor learning opportunities? (100 Words)

### **Beautification and Community Improvement – 12 Points**

1. Describe beautification efforts in public spaces (parks, community gardens, etc.), such as tree and flower planting, native or adaptive landscaping, and landscape maintenance. Include information on the impact of your community's beautification efforts, including any applicable metrics. (150 Words)
2. How has your community worked to improve the appearance of public spaces and green areas, instilling pride and providing a positive impact on the economic development and prosperity of your community? (175 Words)

### **Litter Prevention and Cleanup – 12 Points**

1. Does your community conduct any type of study or survey to determine the extent of littering? (75 Words)
2. Uncovered trucks, construction sites, motor vehicles and pedestrians are the primary sources of the litter found on roadways in and out of cities. Describe how your community specifically addresses these issues. (100 Words)
3. How was your community involved with any litter prevention programs, such as Earth Day, Don't mess with Texas Trash-Off, Adopt-a-Highway, Great American Cleanup, Adopt-a-Beach, Fall Sweep, or America Recycles Day? (75 Words)
4. What was the overall impact on the environment and/or the public's attitude toward litter prevention and cleanup based on your litter prevention programs? How does your community assess the effectiveness of its litter prevention programs? (150 Words)
5. List the community cleanups (Adopt-a-Block, Fall Sweep, Great American Cleanup, etc.) you held and measurable results of those events. (125 Words)

### **Solid Waste Management – 12 Points**

1. Describe your community's involvement in solid waste management, including work with local waste haulers, businesses, civic groups and citizens. (125 Words)
2. Describe how your community has supported source reduction, recycling, reuse and composting to divert from landfill space. List measurable results if applicable. Please address all four topic areas. (125 Words)

### **Litter Law and Illegal Dumping Enforcement – 12 Points**

1. Describe community efforts to educate and work with law enforcement personnel (city, county or state) to review and enforce local and state litter laws, including litter abatement and/or illegal dumping. (125 Words)
2. Describe community efforts to reduce nuisance issues such as graffiti, grass and weed violations, dilapidated structures, junked cars and similar issues. (125 Words)

### **Conclusion – 6 Points**

1. Describe a new or unique challenge your community faced in the past year and how your community addressed this challenge. (125 Words)
2. Explain how your community's overall environmental efforts have made your community a better place to live, work and play. Use this space to address anything related to community improvement programs that has not been covered in this application. (150 Words)

