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# **Introduction**

Thank you for participating in the Good Dads Great Community of the Year Contest. This contest, the first of its kind, furthers Good Dads’ mission to “help kids and communities one dad at a time” by celebrating the outstanding grassroots developments taking place throughout the state to support engaged fatherhood. With a dozen Community Chapters plus additional Good Dads operations taking place in at least 20 communities in Missouri, we are pleased to offer the opportunity to recognize and honor the towns, counties and cities that go above and beyond in their father-focused efforts.

To celebrate our tenth year of operations, Good Dads is delighted to offer a **$10,000 cash prize** to the winning community, earning the title **Great Community of the Year.**

**About Good Dads**

Founded in 2015, Good Dads is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization focused on inspiring, resourcing and encouraging fathers to be more involved in the lives of their children. Headquartered in Springfield, MO, Good Dads also has regional offices in Kansas City and Columbia. It serves hundreds of fathers every year through a variety of programs, events and resources that empower them to be Good Dads.

Fathers are critical for healthy families, happy children and thriving communities—but dads are often underestimated and under-appreciated. At Good Dads, we know how important fathers are, and we are committed to making sure this integral element of the family unit is not ignored, but rather, is encouraged and celebrated.

We believe that every father has the capacity to be a Good Dad. All he needs are the right tools.

**About The Contest**

The Great Community of the Year Contest is a multimedia contest that inspires community leaders to tell their stories, sharing how focusing on father engagement has changed their communities for the better.

A cornerstone of Good Dads operations is to **build better communities** by promoting engaged fatherhood—especially in areas that would otherwise have access to very few resources to champion fatherhood.

The contest is designed to encourage Chapter and soon-to-be Chapter Leaders to make their case for what makes their community worthy of the title by demonstrating their progress in Good Dads’ four Great Community pillars: **strong schools, robust economies, flourishing relationships and safe neighborhoods.**

**Entry Rules**

* Entries are limited to Missouri communities only.
* One entry per community. If more than one entry is submitted, Good Dads will only use the first entry for consideration, disregarding subsequent entries.
* A community does not need to be a **Good Dads Community Chapter** to win the title of Great Community of the Year, but extra consideration will be given to Community Chapters. Regardless of chapter status, in this contest you will be expected to demonstrate how Good Dads operations have made a difference for the father residents of your community.
* Unless expressly stated otherwise, all questions in the Contest Questions portion of this document are **required.** Entries with incomplete questions will be disqualified.

**A Word on Word Limits**

* In the Contest Questions portion of this document, please note the word-count limit next to many of the questions. We want to give you ample space to tell your story, but we cannot accept dissertations or novels. We will be forced to disqualify entries that exceed the word limit on questions—although we will make a good faith assumption for the occasional answer that exceeds the word count by fewer than five words to account for possible differences in word processing software.
* Keep track of your word count:
  + **In Microsoft Word:** This program tracks the number of words in the bottom left of the window. To check the number of words in a particular section, simply highlight the portion with your mouse.
  + **In Google Docs/Google Drive:** In the top left of the window, just under your document’s title, click Tools, then Word Count. At the bottom of the dialog box, click the checkbox that says: “Display word count while typing.” To check the number of words in a particular section, simply highlight the portion with your mouse.
  + **For other word processors:** Copy and paste your words into free web service like <https://wordcounter.net/>

**Tips**

* As you answer contest questions, tell stories about your community. Building a narrative is one of the most effective ways to evoke emotion and persuade.
* Write plainly and avoid jargon or complicated acronyms. Be sure to define words that may be unknown to someone unfamiliar with the intricacies of your work or places in your community.
* Images, including photos, graphics or other infographics, are permitted. We ask that you make them large enough that they are clearly visible/legible when printed.
  + **In Microsoft Word:** Embed a PNG or a JPG image type into your Word Document by clicking “Insert” in the ribbon at the top of the page. Then click on “Pictures.” Find other graphics options in the “Insert” panel by clicking on the “SmartArt” or “Chart” buttons.
  + **In Google Docs/Google Drive:** Embed a PNG or JPG by clicking “Insert” in the ribbon at the top of the document. The click on “Images.” Find other graphics options in the “Insert” menu by clicking on “Chart.”
* Good Dads cannot organize files for you. Please make sure all questions are organized into a single document. We cannot accept multiple attachments.

**Due date**

* All entries for the Great Community of the Year must be submitted **no later than May 1, 2025, by 11:59 p.m.** Any entries submitted after this time will be disqualified.

**To submit**

* Submissions are accepted **via email only**. Send your completed Contest Questions, plus any optional images, in only one attachment. Do NOT include separate attachments for images/questions.
* Send entries to [**info@gooddads.com**](mailto:info@gooddads.com)using the subject line “Great Community of the Year Contest.”
* We will make every effort to reply to your email within 24 hours to acknowledge receipt. If you don’t receive an email reply from a Good Dads staff member after 24 hours, please call our offices at (417) 501-8867.

**Judging**

* Good Dads will select a panel of judges to read and evaluate contest entries. Judges will be familiar with the Good Dads mission and will have some familiarity with the nonprofit’s goals. We will make every effort to select judges who can impartially select winners.
* After the May 1 deadline, Good Dads will make qualifying contest entries available to judges, who will vote on first, second and third-place winners.

**Prizes**

**First Place** | The winning community will boast the **Great Community of the Year** title and will receive a $10,000 check from Good Dads to use in their continued efforts to support engaged fatherhood. The Great Community of the Year will also have the opportunity to be filmed for a short community promotional video, produced by Good Dads, and will have a free table of eight reserved for community leaders and guests of their choosing at the Good Dads annual dinner celebration in Springfield, MO, in October 2025.

**Second Place |** The first runner-up will receive a $5,000 check from Good Dads to use in their continued efforts to support engaged fatherhood. This community will also receive four free seats at the Good Dads annual dinner celebration in Springfield, MO, in October 2025.

**Third Place |** The second runner-up will receive a $2,500 check from Good Dads to use in their continued efforts to support engaged fatherhood. This community will also receive four free seats at the Good Dads annual dinner celebration in Springfield, MO, in October 2025.

**Disclaimer**: All awards are subject to the sole and absolute discretion of Good Dads. We reserve the right to modify, suspend, cancel or terminate the contest should causes beyond Good Dads' control impede the event. We also reserve the right to refrain from selecting winners from submitted entries, should entrants be deemed unfitting of the prizes detailed above.

**What Happens Next?**

It’s time to start writing! The May 1 deadline will be here before you know it. We recommend selecting 1-2 representatives from your community to be the primary scribes for the contest entry.

Good Dads will notify winners via the contact information provided on the contest entry no later than **Monday, May 19, 2025**. We will make public announcements no later than **Tuesday, May 20, 2025,** on the Good Dads website and on its social media channels.

**Questions?**

Please contact Good Dads with questions regarding the contest via email or telephone. We will do our best to get back to you in a timely manner, but we do recommend asking questions well ahead of the May 1 deadline so we can clarify any matters with ample time.

Email us at [**info@gooddads.com**](mailto:info@gooddads.com)

Call us at **(417) 501-8867**

# Contest Questions

**Cover Letter (Optional):** *(Use the space below to introduce your community to the judges.)* **(*Word Limit: 500*)**

**Community Name:**

**Primary contact information:**

First and Last Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

**Secondary contact information:** *(Good Dads will use this contact information if the Primary contact is not reachable.)*

First and Last Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

**Describe the community impacted by your group’s work. Include your area’s population and number of unduplicated fathers served by community programs.   
(*Word Limit: 300*)**

**Name key personnel working on the project and their titles. Include a brief biography for each. (*Word Limit: 500*)**

**Describe your community’s primary objectives and desired outcomes related to supporting engaged fatherhood. (*Word Limit: 800*)**

**Summarize your community’s activies related to supporting engaged fatherhood. Describe key milestones and checkpoints.** *(This is a good place to tell us about a typical class session, e.g., New Pathways, Strong Schools, Fundamentals for Good Dads)* **(*Word Limit: 1,000*)**

**Define and measure your community’s success with fostering engaged fatherhood.** *(This is a good place to tell us about your community’s greatest strengths and where your group is proud of your achievements in your Good Dads work.)* **(*Word Limit: 1,000*)**

**Identify your community’s challenges or areas for improvement. Detail how your community is actively working toward overcoming those challenges. How has your community demonstrated resilience in the face of adversity? (*Word Limit: 700*)**

**Describe how your community has exceptionally upheld the Good Dads mission of “helping kids and communities one dad at a time.” (*Word Limit: 900*)**

**What makes your community a model of collaboration? Explain how your community has prioritized building and maintaining partnerships with other entities. (*Word Limit: 700*)**

**How has your community built a culture of mutual support, kindness and respect?   
(*Word Limit: 500*)**

**(Optional) Use the space below to share testimonies and stories from the fathers who benefit from your community’s efforts. (*Word Limit: 600*)**

**(Optional) Use the space below to share any additional information you wish the judges to know as they consider community entries for the Great Community of the Year Contest. (*Word Limit: 400*)**

# Readiness Checklist

**Before sending your contest entry to Good Dads, check your work! Did you…**

* …Carefully read the contest rules and information in the Introduction portion of this document?
* …Use spell check and edit for grammar and punctuation?
* …Provide at least two sets of contact information where we can reach you should you win the contest?
* …Answer all the questions in the Contest Questions portion of this document?
* …Limit your words to fit the word count requirements for each question?

**You are ready to submit your contest entry!**

Send your completed Contest Questions, plus any optional images, in only one attachment. Do NOT include separate attachments for images/questions.

Send entries to [info@gooddads.com](mailto:info@gooddads.com) using the subject line Great Community of the Year Contest no later than **11:59 p.m. on Thursday, May 1, 2025**.