



# CONSERVATION

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

**i** Visit [www.GFWC.org/membership/club-manual/](http://www.GFWC.org/membership/club-manual/) for updates and more information.

### OUR NATURAL RESOURCES ARE AMONG OUR MOST PRECIOUS TREASURES.

The GFWC Conservation Community Service Program is designed for members to gain an appreciation for our environment. Members are encouraged to increase awareness of conservation issues, work to preserve, maintain and restore our natural resources, preserve habitats for plants and animals, and participate in endeavors to beautify and sustain the world around us. Our natural resources include, but are not limited to, water, trees, plants, air, land, and wildlife.

Incorporate any and all of these topics into your conservation plans:

- Recycling
- Environmental Education and Awareness
- Outdoor Exploration
- Noxious Weeds
- Air and Water Quality
- Waste Handling
- Natural Resource Restoration
- Land Maintenance
- Tree Planting
- Beautification
- Wildlife Protection
- Proper Care for Domesticated Animals
- Food Sources
- Community Gardens
- Preserving Existing Waterways
- Energy Conservation

### GFWC COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

GFWC Community Service Projects are projects that members initiate and participate in to serve their communities—they do not include projects that relate to GFWC partners. These projects are specifically related to the Conservation Community Service Program and may involve other members of the community, other organizations, or the individual club or members.



Direct any questions regarding projects that do not involve GFWC partners to the Conservation Community Service Program Chairman or GFWC Programs Department at [Programs@GFWC.org](mailto:Programs@GFWC.org).



### 2016-2018 CONSERVATION COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

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### THE GREAT OUTDOORS

The **GFWC Woman's Club of Vista (CA)** was "Inspired by Nature." Their environmental education program brought children outdoors to learn about the environment and gardening through monthly classes. The children got their hands dirty while their minds were busily learning about bugs and Monarch butterflies, Earth Day, Water Wonderland, Fall Fun, and Pond Ecology.



### **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

The **GFWC Women's Club of Odessa (DE)** held a forestry project with a goal to educate students about the importance of trees in reducing global warming and providing clean air by planting trees and revitalizing Arbor Day. Volunteers from the club worked with school administration, teachers, students, families, friends, and workers with disabilities. The students learned through active participation about the benefits of trees in the community.



### **NATURE**

The **GFWC Solon Women's Club (IA)** made themed backpacks for children and families to check out from the library. The backpacks encouraged outdoor exploration with themes of birds, bugs, butterflies, spiders, and reptiles, and were filled with coloring books, crayons, magnifying glasses, toys, stickers, measuring tapes, binoculars, and activities.



### **RECYCLING WITH A PURPOSE**

The **GFWC Paradise Valley Woman's Club (AZ)** and **DeQuincy Study Club (LA)** collected plastic grocery bags which were then crocheted into Mats for the Homeless and donated to a local group for distribution. It takes about 700-800 bags to make one of these blankets or mats.

## **IDEAS**

Program ideas are endless. Below is a list of ideas on how clubs may support the Conservation Community Service Program.

- Educate young people about the importance of protecting our natural resources.
- Invite local experts and members of community organizations to speak at club meetings about conservation and beautification practices.
- Write op-ed pieces, letters to the editor, and press releases about important conservation issues in your community and submit them to your local media.
- Plant native species for beautification and restoration of land and waterways.
- Clean up along roadways, waterways, and trails.
- Implement beautification projects at parks, hospitals, shelters, cemeteries, and other community gathering places.
- Clean up trash after youth and adult sport and community events.
- Encourage preservation of historic properties.
- Visit a state or national park.
- Tour a botanical garden.
- Honor individuals and businesses for their gardens and civic pride with a "Garden of the Month" project.
- Plant and care for trees and donate funds for reforestation plans.
- Create community gardens to promote self-sufficiency.
- Advocate and investigate local food and where it comes from.
- Preserve natural habitats to protect wildlife.
- Provide local shelters and sanctuaries with needed items for animal rehabilitation and care.
- Support curbside recycling programs, utilize drop-off and buy-back recycling centers, or organize a recycling program if none exist.



- Work with local officials and organizations to facilitate proper disposal of unused medicine and needles.
- Participate and/or volunteer at a local household hazardous waste collection day event.
- Visit a landfill and discover the waste disposal practices which are in place to protect the land, air, and water.
- Implement energy conservation practices in your clubhouse, home, office, and public buildings.
- Investigate renewable energy projects and sources in your area.
- Participate in an awareness day such as Arbor Day, America Recycles Day, Earth Day, etc.

## **GFWC PARTNERSHIPS**

GFWC partners are the organizations listed with whom GFWC has established a formal relationship and mutual understanding. Our partners offer unique and customized services: materials, speakers, kits, and/or additional information specifically designed for GFWC clubs. They are aware of GFWC clubs' specific needs, our organizational structure, and have a signed Memorandum of Understanding with GFWC. GFWC partners will assist in monitoring the donations generated by GFWC members.

To ensure that donations to GFWC partner organizations at the individual, club, district, or state level are reflected toward GFWC's collective impact, make sure to write GFWC in the memo line on your donation check.



Direct any questions regarding donations to GFWC partners to Conservation Community Service Program Chairman or GFWC Programs Department at [Programs@GFWC.org](mailto:Programs@GFWC.org).



### **THE NATURE GENERATION**

**Contact:** Jenny Schmidt

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The Nature Generation inspires and empowers young people to make a difference through environmental stewardship programs in literature and science. It encourages community members—especially young people—to learn about nature and care for the environment.

The Nature Generation programs connect youth with the outdoors, promote learning about nature through books, and foster environmental curiosity and knowledge—all with the belief that young people who grow up aware of their footprint become the true environmental stewards of the future.

Some of the organization's flagship programs have been customized so GFWC clubs can promote environmental stewardship in their communities.

Through Read Green projects, participating clubs inspire the love of nature to children and young adults by giving them award winning books that teach them how to be caretakers of our planet.

Clubs that participate in the Teach Green butterfly garden project bring their communities beautiful gardens and a legacy of saving the dwindling monarch butterflies and other pollinators.



We are continually working to develop partnerships with organizations whose missions and scope of work are germane to GFWC. Look for updates from the Conservation Community Service Program Chairman in *News & Notes*, *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*, and online at [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org).



## **AWARDS**

GFWC recognizes State Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Conservation Community Service Program projects and partnership projects, as follows:

- Certificate to one State Federation in each membership category
- \$50 award to one club in the nation for project creativity

Award winners will be determined by entries into the Awards Program. Each State Federation may submit one State Award Cover Sheet and one Club Creativity Award Entry Cover Sheet for the Conservation Community Service Program projects. Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC.

GFWC partners will recognize State Federations and clubs for their efforts. Contact the GFWC Programs Department for information.



Refer to the Awards section of the *Club Manual* for more information, including the Award Entry Cover Sheet guidelines.

