



EDUCATION

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

i Visit www.GFWC.org/membership/club-manual/ for updates and more information.

EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

— NELSON MANDELA



Article 26 of the United Nations' 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "everyone has the right to education." More importantly, GFWC clubs know that education can open doors and expand opportunities and freedoms for their members, their communities, and the world. Education contributes to fostering peace, democracy, and economic growth, as well as improving health and reducing poverty. Throughout this administration, the goal of the GFWC Education Community Service Program will be to develop projects that will help improve the quality of life and create a better world.



2016-2018 EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

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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 Education 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 Education Community Service Program Chairman or GFWC Programs Department at Programs@GFWC.org.



BEACH BUDDIES BOOKS

GFWC Woman's Club of Point Pleasant (NJ): "Beach Buddies Books" is a project which brought books to children while on vacation at the Jersey shore.



BOOKS TILL SIX

GFWC Bent Mountain Woman's Club (VA): "Books Till Six" supplied books for the Roanoke Children's Hospital Pediatric Unit.



MAGIC BUS

GFWC Cosmopolitan Woman's Club (NM): "Magic Bus" supplies school buses to classes for field trips.



1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

GFWC Salem Women's Club (NH): "1000 Books Before Kindergarten" promoted reading to families from infancy to school.

LIBRARY IDEAS

Having founded over 474 public libraries and 4,655 traveling libraries in the 1930s, The American Library Association credited GFWC with establishing 75% of America's public libraries. In the 21st century, libraries continue to be an important part of our communities, demonstrated by a 2013 survey in which 90% of Americans, ages 16 and older, said the closing of their local public library would have an impact on their community.

- Have a club meeting at your local library and help mend worn out library books or other tasks.
- Deliver library books to homebound citizens in your community.
- Host a 'Love Your Library Night' at the library with a silent auction, raffles, music, wine, and hors d'oeuvres (for children and adults.)
- Develop a library tour for children and end the tour with a library card and a book for them to keep.
- Create a Bookplate/Memorial Book Campaign in conjunction with your library. Hold a contest to design a bookplate. Members of the community can purchase a book, with the memorial plate honoring someone.
- Hold a Literary Basket Auction with a book theme and donate proceeds to your library.
- Assemble a 'Books for Babies' basket for new babies in your community. The basket can include a new board book, information about the local library, and tips about the importance of reading to children.
- Support your state and local library legislative initiatives.
- If your library has some outdoor space, purchase some tables and chairs or picnic tables and a small garden. Include a used book table and offer to man the table once a month.
- Invite a local language teacher to host a bilingual story hour, featuring books from another language and/or culture.
- Host story hours, parties or adult book discussions at the Library. Some suggestions:

Cinderella around the World

Pick several versions of Cinderella to read to a group of kids. Prepare a simple craft and play a game, such as Pass the Glass Slipper.

Happy Un-Birthday Party

Read birthday books, have birthday cake, and play Pin the Tail on the Donkey. Celebrate everyone's birthday!

"Cans" Film Festival

Show a new DVD around the time of the Cannes Film Festival and ask attendees to bring in a canned donation for the local food pantry.

Intergenerational Book Group

Once a year, choose a book for both adults and kids to read. It will make for a memorable program and discussion.

SCHOOL IDEAS

- Donate school supplies to schools in need throughout your community and state. Supplies can include: notebooks, pencils, small dry erase boards and markers, a hole punch, flash drives, and incentives such as stickers and small toys.
- Preschools and Head Start Programs are always in need of a variety of manipulatives such as magnetic letters, counters, and sight word games. Collect these at your first meeting in September or August with a Back to School Party theme.
- Ask your school librarian about their needs. Many times it is the school library funds that are cut from school budgets. Remember to talk with middle school librarians as they are often overlooked.
- Donate personal dictionaries or sign language dictionaries to a specific grade level in your community.
- Host a Lunch Buddy or Pen Pal Program at a local school.



- Volunteer as an academic mentor to help students with their homework in afterschool programs.
- Provide materials for an afterschool homework center.
- Sponsor a "Cool to be in School" program to honor students with perfect attendance. Choose to do this program after each marking period so more students are recognized.
- Organize a career shadowing day by pairing students with community leaders and business professionals.
- Create a student dictionary project to provide students with their own pocket dictionary. Each dictionary could include a handwritten or printed message from your members. These dictionaries are especially useful in English as a Second Language Classes.
- Treat teachers throughout the school year with these special gifts: (Don't forget to include your club's name and phone number.)
 - A plant with a message card that reads: "Teachers plant seeds of knowledge that will grow forever!"
 - A gift card to a local coffee shop that reads: "Thanks a Latte for all you do!"
 - A small hand lotion bottle at the beginning of the year with a tag that reads: "Hope you have a SMOOTH year!"

LITERACY IDEAS

Literacy is a subject that creates widespread community concern and support. Additionally, literacy affects all people in virtually every aspect of their daily lives. Talk to your local and county school boards, as well as literacy organizations, and use your imagination to create unique and original projects that capture a variety of audiences.

- Ask your mayor to proclaim a literacy day, week, or month.
- Work with a literacy organization to hold a public forum on illiteracy. Examine the factors in your community that may affect literacy levels, such as:
 - Existence of learning disabilities
 - Prevalence of English as a second language
 - Formal education terminated early
 - Visual difficulties or physical or mental conditions that inhibit learning.
- Provide illustrated adult picture dictionaries to groups learning English.
- Donate large size print books to your local senior center or adult basic literacy classes.
- Set up an information booth about illiteracy at the mall, craft show, or fair.
- Sponsor a 'Take a Break and Read' program where everyone in your community stops to read for 30 minutes per day.
- Develop a Family Reading Workshop with tips for parents on reading to their children.
- Hold a book drive in your community for gently used books and donate to families in need for their home libraries.
- Help GED adult students by offering babysitting services to single parents furthering their education. Work with the local library or school to provide space for the babysitting.
- Create a reading nook at a local laundromat. Include magazines and books for adults and children.
- Host a book shower for a women's shelter or homeless shelter. Include adult and children's books.
- Provide magazine subscriptions to shelters.
- Record books for non-reading parents and their children. Give both the book and the recording to adult literacy classes or preschool programs.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Most GFWC clubs and federations give scholarships and they range in amounts. GFWC realizes that no matter how small a scholarship may be, each one is important to the recipient and we hope all clubs, through their State Federations, tell us about every scholarship or donation they have made and share the many creative ways they raise funds for those scholarships.

If your club wishes to begin a scholarship fund, here is a step-by-step plan to get started:

1. Determine the purpose of your scholarship. Beginning a successful scholarship depends upon identifying the reason for awarding it, as well as the target student audience it can potentially help. Common reasons for founding scholarships include:

- Memorializing a loved one by helping students with a scholarship in that person's name
- Providing financial aid to students studying in a particular field
- Helping students who have financial or personal hardships
- Awarding students who excel in a sport, activity, or academic field
- Honoring students who have completed an essay on a topic of interest
- Honoring students who have made a significant impact in their community

2. Set a timeline for the scholarship. Typically, if you want to award a scholarship by the summer prior to a given academic year, you should begin planning for it the previous summer. Steps to factor into your timeline include:

- Program development
- Fundraising
- Advertising
- Evaluating applications
- Awarding the scholarship

3. Design the application. However you design your application, you want to make sure that it will solicit the information you need to select the recipient(s) based on your criteria. Common components of scholarship applications may include:

- An essay on a topic relevant to the scholarship purpose
- A list of academic and/or non-academic awards and achievements
- A description of extracurricular involvement
- An explanation of financial need
- Copies of high school and/or college transcripts
- Letters of recommendation from teachers, advisors, employers, etc.

4. Determine the duration of the award. Some scholarships are offered as a one-time award and some are for multiple years.

5. Plan how to fund the scholarship. Funding can come from club or community fundraisers or clubs can ask for donations from local community businesses.

6. Select the recipient(s) and make the award(s). A committee working together can read applications, determine the best candidate(s), and then vote for approval. You should then notify the recipient(s) and award the scholarship funds according to the timeline you scheduled.





Epsilon Sigma Omicron

Epsilon Sigma Omicron is an honorary educational society open to all per-capita dues paying GFWC members. ESO provides clubwomen with a structured reading program that is educational and stimulates a desire for self-improvement. ESO materials are available online at www.gfwc.org/what-we-do/community-service-programs/epsilon-sigma-omicron.

There are a number of ways to support ESO activities and membership within your club, including:

- Verify the charter of an ESO chapter in your state by contacting your State President or the GFWC Education Community Service Program Chairman. If one does not exist, establish a state ESO chapter and start reading
- Select one or two books from the reading list to discuss at club meetings
- Establish reading groups for study and discussion
- Organize a book fair
- Sponsor a book-signing event
- Promote local authors and their works
- Promote reading at all age levels
- Work with your local library or book store in reading to children events

GRANTS

FOCUS ON LITERACY CLUB GRANTS

Literacy club grants of up to \$200 are available to GFWC clubs and funds may be used for purchasing books for tutors to use, providing books to children and/or a variety of other literacy needs. Refer to the application for a number of other suggestions, available at www.GFWC.org/membership/awards-contests-and-grants/.

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 Education Community Service Program Chairman or GFWC Programs department at Programs@GFWC.org.



HUGH O'BRIAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP (HOBY)

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"MY HOBY LEADERSHIP SEMINAR TAUGHT ME THAT I HAVE POTENTIAL; HOBY WLC TAUGHT ME THAT I HAVE A PLACE IN THE WORLD; AND HOBY ALA TAUGHT ME HOW TO USE MY POTENTIAL TO CHANGE THE WORLD."

—ROBERT BAURLEY, HOBY Alum: PA-East Leadership Seminar '12, WLC '12, ALA Fall '13



Since 1958, more than 425,000 students have begun their leadership journey with HOBY. Annually, more than 10,000 high school students from across the country and around the world participate in HOBY programs, such as:

Community Leadership Workshop (CLeW) is HOBY's introductory one-day leadership program for high school freshmen. It is a free program that focuses on leadership as a discipline to be explored and learned. CLeWs are attended by 50 to 100 students and can take place anytime during the school year.

The State Leadership Seminar (LS) is for high school sophomores who want to develop their leadership talents and become youth leaders in their communities. This dynamic 3 - 4 day seminar explores leadership from three perspectives—personal, group, and societal—through fun and interactive workshops, activities, and discussions. Seventy seminars across the country take place every weekend between May and June 2016. A sponsorship of \$350 covers the cost of all meals, lodging, and training materials for one deserving student for an entire weekend.

The World Leadership Congress (WLC) brings students together from across the globe for a unique, week-long international program. Upon completing a State Leadership Seminar, rising juniors from U.S. high schools have the opportunity to convene with international students, representing up to 20 countries, to discover their potential as the next generation of leaders. The WLC takes place annually in July in Chicago, Illinois. Sponsorships may include full or partial coverage of the \$1850 registration fee or donation of airline miles for students traveling from across the country.

The Advanced Leadership Academy (ALA) is a college-level program for high school juniors and seniors who want to enhance their leadership abilities to lead others for social change. Successfully completing this 5-day program will allow participants to develop their own action plan for change and earn them one transferable college unit, which is included in the registration fee of \$1250. The 2016 ALA takes place July 7-12 at the Lakeshore Campus of Loyola University Chicago. (Contact ALA@hoby.org for discounted early registration fees and future dates and venue.)

More than 4,000 HOBY volunteers plan, fundraise, and produce HOBY programs each year. Students return from HOBY as change leaders, equipped with leadership training, self-awareness, and motivation to make a positive impact in their community. GFWC's support and volunteers have been critical to thousands of HOBY Ambassadors over the decades. There are lots of ways for you and your club to get involved!

- Spread the word about HOBY programs to your local high schools
- Sponsor students to attend a HOBY program
- Plan and produce a Community Leadership Workshop with local HOBY Alumni
- Help schools select and register sophomore students for the State Leadership Seminars
- Select and sponsor a deserving high school Junior or Senior for the Advanced Leadership Academy
- Volunteer at the events
- Provide gifts-in-kind
- Think of a unique way your club can help!



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

AWARDS

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

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

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 Education 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.