



EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

2024-2026 GFWC CLUB MANUAL

“LEARNING IS NOT ATTAINED BY CHANCE; IT MUST BE SOUGHT FOR WITH ARDOR AND ATTENDED TO WITH DILIGENCE.” ABIGAIL ADAMS

Equitable, quality education is the key to acquiring the knowledge to succeed in our ever-changing world. Whether in the classroom or via the internet, we gain the knowledge and understanding that forms our perspective, our ideas, and our opinions. It is essential that society provides the best education to all, with no exception to socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, or gender.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education encourages students to pursue careers in the STEM fields. Students learn through interaction, problem-solving, creativity, communication, and collaboration. This approach to learning can help meet the challenges of the future and enable them to be successful individuals.

Equitable access to affordable, high-quality early learning programs provides a safe and nurturing environment while promoting the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of young children. Early childhood is generally defined as birth through age eight. Five Key Elements are fundamental to achieving high-quality experiences and strong outcomes for preschool children: the learning environment, daily routine, adult-child relationships, teaching practices, and family engagement. Economic research examining the return on investment for early education suggests tremendous value ranging from \$4 to \$13 in return for every \$1 spent from impacts on educational attainment, employment, health, truancy, and criminality.

Public libraries serve a critical purpose and essential role in our communities not only from books and resources but also as a safe place to meet, learn, and study for all ages. Shining light on public libraries is an important mission to meet the needs of its patrons and the community. They offer free access to all people for information through books, online services, classes, workshops, etc. Libraries can be a safe place for children and adults to learn and interact with friends.

In the 1930s GFWC women's clubs were credited by the American Library Association as having founded over 474 free public libraries and 4,655 traveling libraries. Supporting local libraries continues to be a Federation priority today. Above all, be supportive of your library and implement a project at your library that makes your club proud.

Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) is an honorary educational society open to all per-capita dues paying GFWC members. The purpose of ESO is to provide clubwomen with a structural reading program, which is educational and stimulates a desire for self-improvement. Are you an ESO member?

As clubwomen, GFWC members promote education for both children and adults. Projects in the Education and Libraries Community Service Program are designed to foster schools and other educational institutions and opportunities, and promote libraries, literacy, and reading good books. Through these efforts, we encourage the growth of individuals and communities at home and around the world.



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Direct any questions regarding projects that do not involve GFWC Affiliate Organizations to the Education and Libraries Community Service Program Chairman or GFWC Programs Department at Programs@GFWC.org.