



ARTS and CULTURE

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

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The study of art and culture enriches the human experience. Art education improves problem solving and critical thinking skills, builds focus and perseverance, and nurtures creativity, confidence, and collaboration. Cultural awareness promotes effective communication and profoundly increases the ability to appreciate and enjoy a variety of new people and experiences.



CHALLENGE PROJECT

Sponsor a Youth Art Contest during Youth Art Month in March.

Affiliate Organizations

(Confirmed as of date of printing)

Depending on club intent, projects/programs from these GFWC Affiliate Organizations could be reported here as well:



Resource Organizations



Google Arts & Culture



Get Inspired with “Grassroots” Projects

- Be creative – design and decorate a garden.
- Help build, paint, and decorate a Little Free Library.
- Host an art supply drive within your club.
- Hold a recycled art contest for art projects made using recycled materials.
- Work with your Chamber of Commerce and/or Tourist Commission to create a map of your community with pictures/drawings and descriptions of historic sites, monuments, and points of interest.
- Make homemade holiday cards for nursing home residents or Meals on Wheels recipients.
- Provide artwork and help decorate a reading nook at the library, a local laundromat, or other location in your community.
- Donate books with an art theme to the public library, a school library, or a Little Free Library.
- Donate seasonal and holiday themed coloring sheets for children at schools and libraries.
- Hold a “Chalk the Walk” contest for elementary school children on sidewalks in front of a municipal building, library, elementary school, or other public venue. Choose a theme and have your club supply the chalk and ribbons for the winners.
- “Hire” student jazz combos, string quartets, or even the whole band to perform at club events.
- Use an artistic event to raise funds to sponsor local community art and cultural programs.
- Feature art or art forms that are indicative of another culture at monthly club meetings—origami, Faberge Eggs, Ukrainian Easter Eggs, Russian icons, and others.
- Host an international dinner party. Choose a country or region as a theme. Decorate and select the meal to fit the theme. Learn about the culture by sharing facts about the area including food, music, lifestyle, etc.
- Volunteer at a school to teach a lesson from your cultural heritage to students. Include information about the food of the culture and provide samples for the students to taste.
- Present a few interesting facts at club meetings to acquaint members to a variety of international, regional, and local cultures.
- Study and compare pottery or fabrics from different areas of the United States and other countries.
- And many more provided in Club Manual.

(This list is a brief offering of project ideas. Please visit Club Manual for other grassroots projects and/or programs as well as those with Affiliate Organizations or Resources.)



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT and OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



Nancy Greenberg, Chairman E: ngreenberggfwc@comcast.net

The GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program reminds GFWC members that each of us is a part of a larger society and is responsible for undertaking actions that will create a better quality of life and foster a sense of community—locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. The four “broad strokes” of this effort include: Citizenship; Crime Prevention, Safety, and Disaster Preparedness; the Needy, Hungry, and Homeless; and Our Military Personal and Veterans.



Affiliate Organizations

(Confirmed as of date of printing)

Depending on club intent, projects/programs from these GFWC Affiliate Organizations could be reported here as well:



Resource Organizations



Get Inspired with “Grassroots” Projects

- Engage community on key issues, identify positive solutions, and stimulate public policy initiatives.
- Advocate for civics education in schools, ensuring students acquire an understanding of government.
- Work together to “Get Out the Vote!” Encourage others to register and vote, provide information about early voting or polling location and times, and offer transportation if needed.
- Collaborate with bookstores or libraries to create a prominent display of nonfiction books that commemorate Women’s History Month in March, tell the “herstory” of women’s suffrage, and celebrate the centennial of the 19th Amendment on August 26, 2020.
- Make homes and communities safer by providing information on crime prevention strategies, such as neighborhood/park watches and suspicious activity reports.
- Support and thank local Police and Fire Departments for keeping the community safe.
- Sponsor CPR or first aid classes for moms’ groups, childcare providers, teens, and others.
- Share fact sheets with members and friends, including “The Top Ten Financial Scams Targeting Seniors,” and “Eight Tips for How Seniors Can Protect Themselves from Money Scams.”
- Work with first responders and your local high schools to provide presentations on at-risk driving practices, such as texting and failure to use seat belts.
- Collect socks at club, district, or state meetings and donate this “number one most requested item” to homeless shelters.
- Organize a club day of service at a local food pantry by donating essential goods and sorting and organizing their shelves.
- Work with your local schools to establish “closets” within the schools where clothing, shoes, backpacks, underwear, socks, outerwear, and personal hygiene items are organized and stored for distribution to children in need.
- Organize a winter clothing drive in the fall, collecting, sorting, and cleaning gently used coats, jackets, sweaters, hats, scarves, and gloves.
- Encourage members to research local or national programs that support our military.
- Work with your VA to identify veterans who need household supplies and furniture, employment assistance, educational scholarships, or other help.
- Create awareness about the high rate of suicide among veterans and suicide prevention programs.
- And many more provided in Club Manual.

(This list is a brief offering of project ideas. Please visit Club Manual for other grassroots projects and/or programs as well as those with Affiliate Organizations or Resources.)



EDUCATION and LIBRARIES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



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GFWC members promote education in both children and adults. We aim to help others, while we also continue to learn. Projects in the Education Community Service Program are designed to foster schools, as well as other educational institutions and opportunities, and to promote literacy, libraries, and the love of a good book. Through these efforts, we encourage the growth of individuals and communities at home and around the world.



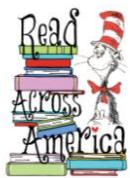
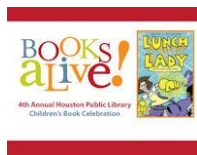
Affiliate Organizations

(Confirmed as of date of printing)

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Resource Organizations



Get Inspired with "Grassroots" Projects

- Advocate for reading opportunities for children and adults with special needs.
- Establish a scholarship for a local student.
- Support schools, educators, and students with donations of school supplies, playground equipment, or fund field trips for underserved students.
- Become a partner in education with a Title 1 school by volunteering one-on-one time with students or providing take-home snacks for weekends.
- Organize book-themed events, such as a book walk, book fair, book bingo, book drive/swap, book reading challenge, or book club of "reading buddies."
- Plan or sponsor a "Books Alive" program for your community, bringing a favorite children's book to life as a play or puppet show.
- Support your local public library by sponsoring materials and programs for the underserved, disabled, and/or non-native speakers.
- Offer volunteer assistance at the library, by helping library patrons, supporting children's story time, or providing for craft projects.
- Sponsor a community enrichment project at the library such as a Book Character Parade or Literary-themed poster contest.
- Establish a Little Free Library in your community, choosing an area where books are scarce.
- Work with the library to establish a teen advisory board to establish a teen book review, develop teen services, and recommend additional library resources for teens.
- Collaborate with Chamber of Commerce to develop small business services at the library, such as information centers that include a video conference room, staff training workshops, and other resources.
- Consider supporting a library in another part of the world.
- Establish/Support ESO in your state for book study and discussion.
- Participate in the online GFWC ESO reading book club.

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ENVIRONMENT

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

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The GFWC Environment Community Service Program encourages us to become stewards of the earth by working to preserve the world's resources, protect wildlife and domesticated animals, live sustainably, and beautify our communities and enjoy nature.



Affiliate Organizations

(Confirmed as of date of printing)

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Resource Organizations



Get Inspired with "Grassroots" Projects

- Join the Arbor Day Foundation and receive ten free trees to plant or donate ten trees to be planted in a threatened rain forest or one of our National Forests.
- Save trees by initiating a "Go Paperless" campaign.
- Educate members on the dangers of poor air quality, which is the number one cause of premature death around the world.
- Support wetland conservation and learn how wetlands are a deterrent to both flooding and drought.
- Organize a household hazardous waste collection with your local services, to ensure these dangerous materials are disposed of properly.
- Educate club and community members about the importance of pollinators and how to create healthy habitats where they can thrive.
- Provide a program for club and community members that highlights the best native plants for food and cover.
- Advocate for and support regulations that limit light pollution, which is dangerous to nocturnal wildlife and disruptive to ecosystems.
- Learn about ocean wildlife in peril, such as sea turtles and manatees, and organize volunteer or fundraising opportunities to help protect these species.
- Offer a workshop on building birdhouses and provide information on bird species, their characteristics and behaviors, and their varying habitat requirements.
- Commemorate America Recycles Day (November 15), a program of Keep America Beautiful, by organizing a special event.
- Coordinate a children's poster contest on recycling.
- Hold a community workshop on sustainable gardening.
- Hold a club yard sale to repurpose gently used items and donate the proceeds to various environmental charities.
- Plan a clean-up day in the community by coordinating groups of volunteers to clean eyesore areas and properly discard the waste.
- Sponsor a "Yard of the Month" or other monthly beautification contest that recognizes community enhancement.
- Establish a hiking or biking trail in the community or maintain an existing trail, encouraging people to learn more about nature and enjoy the outdoors.
- Organize a local garden tour and donate the proceeds to a community garden or conservation project.
- And many more provided in Club Manual.

(This list is a brief offering of project ideas. Please visit Club Manual for other grassroots projects and/or programs as well as those with Affiliate Organizations or Resources.)



HEALTH and WELLNESS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



Beth Smith, Chairman E: sixpetstoomany@@netscape.net

The human body, mind, and spirit comprise our health and wellness. To improve our wellbeing, we must address three key components: nutrition, disease prevention, and physical and emotional care. This Community Service Program aims to explore the various opportunities for awareness and advancement of each of these vital areas.



Affiliate Organizations

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Resource Organizations



Get Inspired with "Grassroots" Projects

- Share information with club and community members about making wise food choices.
- Host a community workshop and/or taste testing that provides healthy recipes and handouts on nutrition.
- Celebrate National Nutrition Month in March with a healthy potluck dinner at your club's monthly meeting.
- Hold a "Healthy Food Drive," requesting donors to contribute nutritious foods from Feeding America's Healthy Food Donation List.
- Establish a school OR community garden or expand an existing school garden to provide fresh and nutritious produce for local soup kitchens and food pantries.
- Support and/or sponsor immunization programs at home and abroad.
- Recognize National Immunization Awareness Month in August.
- Share information with club and community members on various topics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), such as disease and conditions, healthy living, traveler's health, emergency preparedness, and more.
- Share information about the early signs and symptoms of diabetes in children and adults.
- Post and/or share information on the safe disposal of unwanted medications and the location of local medication disposal drop boxes.
- Adopt a classroom and donate physical exercise "take a break" items such as jump ropes, hula hoops, balls, etc.
- Partner with a local assisted living home to provide senior exercise equipment such as leg pedaling machines, resistance bands, and/or yoga mats.
- Learn and share the risk factors, signs, and symptoms of someone in danger of suicide, as outlined by the National Institute of Mental Health.
- Educate, advocate, and/or donate during Mental Health Awareness month in May.
- Offer resources and/or promote programs that prevent bullying, so children and youth are safeguarded and supported at school, in the community, and online.
- And many more provided in Club Manual.

(This list is a brief offering of project ideas. Please visit Club Manual for other grassroots projects and/or programs as well as those with Affiliate Organizations or Resources.)