

Education in the Community Program

OBJECTIVE:
Promote a commitment to lifelong learning by encouraging members and others to foster and support educational opportunities in their communities

ACTION PLAN

EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON

The purpose of Epsilon Sigma Omicron is to promote a commitment to lifelong learning and self-improvement through reading. It is intended to offer a path to self-enrichment and personal growth for members.

ESTABLISH ESO MEMBERSHIP

- o Verify the charter of an ESO chapter in your state; contact your state president or the GFWC Program Department.
- o Establish a state ESO chapter if one does not exist. Obtain guidelines from the GFWC Marketplace, www.GFWC.org/Marketplace.
- o Order updated book list from GFWC Marketplace www.GFWC.org/Marketplace or download it from the GFWC website at www.GFWC.org/ESO.
- o Encourage club members to join the state ESO chapter. Participate in ESO and associated activities.
- o Compile, review, revise, and distribute reading lists to members and the community. Refer to your state ESO chapters for guidelines or contact local libraries, schools, universities, extension services, or bookstores.

ESO ACTIVITIES

- o Investigate GFWC's online Book of the Month activities at www.GFWC.org/BookOfTheMonth. Take part in online book discussions.
- o Listen to books on tape, preferably unabridged versions.
- o Establish reading groups for study and discussion.
- o Promote local authors and their work. Sponsor a book-signing event.
- o Form a book or tape exchange program among club members or at the local library.
- o Promote reading at all age levels.
- o Encourage establishment of home libraries and reading in the home.

SUPPORT LIBRARIES

Libraries are an invaluable resource for every community and each citizen.

Support libraries in order to ensure their continuing ability to provide information and materials. Implement projects in support of libraries.

- o Join Friends of the Libraries, USA. (See Resources)
- o Develop a Books for Babies program. Provide packets that contain a baby book and information on helping babies develop a love of books and reading to new parents and caregivers. (See Resources)



ARE YOU AWARE OF HOW MANY GFWC CLUBWOMEN ARE EXTRAORDINARY READERS? *GFWC's honorary educational society Epsilon Sigma Omicron recently had to add a Sixth Century Award to recognize readers who have read 600 books as part of ESO!*





Education in the Community Program

- o Celebrate library card sign-up month annually in September. Encourage community members to apply for library cards.
- o Plan activities at your library, invite speakers and authors, hold craft sessions, and encourage use of the library.
- o Celebrate National Author's Day on November 1, which was established in 1929 by GFWC and made an official day of celebration by the U.S. Department of Commerce in 1949.
- o Bring library books to home-bound seniors or individuals living in nursing homes.
- o Sponsor a summer reading program for children and adults. Hold discussion groups about books read within the library.
- o Celebrate National Friends of the Libraries Week annually in October.
- o Hold a "How to Use the Library" program for middle school children and English as a second language students in cooperation with adult education classes.
- o Promote National Library Week, usually the third week in April, and National Children's Book Week, annually the week before Thanksgiving. (See Resources)
- o Sponsor or hold classes for those unfamiliar with computerized card catalogs.
- o Participate in the American Library Association's Adopt-A-Library Program. (See Resources)
- o Obtain an Adopt-A-Library entry form from GFWC Headquarters to receive an ALA Certificate. Entry deadline is March 15 of each year.
- o Report on successful library programs.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- o Provide scholarships to worthy students in the community.
- o Celebrate National Scholarship Month annually in May. Contact Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America for more information. (See Resources)
- o Investigate the Talbots Women's Scholarship Fund, a fund just for women. Contact Scholarship Management Services for information or visit www.Talbots.com/About/Scholar/Scholar.asp. (See Resources)
- o Visit the AARP Foundation website at www.AARPFoundation.org to find information about scholarships for eligible women over 40 years of age.
 - Order the free AARP toolkit for use in the club and/or community. Contact Tanya Reid at TReid@AARP.org
 - Request information about being a mentor and/or available mentor training





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RESOURCES

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

50 E. Huron ST | Chicago, IL 60611

P: 800/545-2433 | F: 312/944-8520 | W: www.ALA.org | E: ala@ala.org

The American Library Association is the voice of America's libraries and the millions of people who depend on them. The oldest and largest library association in the world, its 63,000 members represent all types of libraries—public, school, academic, state, and special libraries serving government, business and other institutions. Its mission is to promote the highest quality library and information services in order to enhance learning and ensure public access to information

THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL

12 W. 37th ST 2nd FL | New York, NY 10018-7480

P: 212/966-1990 | P: 888/807-9355 | F: 212/966-2073 | W: www.CBCBooks.org

The Children's Book Council is a nonprofit trade organization dedicated to encouraging literacy and the use and enjoyment of children's books. CBC is the official sponsor of Young People's Poetry Week and Children's Book Week each year.

CITIZENS' SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

One Scholarship Way, PO BOX 297 | St. Peter, MN 56082

P: 800/537-4180 | P: 507/931-1682 | W: www.ScholarshipAmerica.org

ELDERHOSTEL

11 Avenue de Lafayette | Boston, MA 02111-1746

P: 877/426-8056 | W: www.ElderHostel.org

Contact: Cady Ann Goldfield, Public Relations Manager | newsmedia@elderhostel.org

Elderhostel is a nonprofit, educational program designed especially for adults aged 55 and over. This program offers personal stimulation and enrichment through short-term, residential experiences on a college or university campus with courses in the liberal arts and sciences, as well as a full extracurricular program. Host sites also include art schools, conference centers, and museums, as well as state and national parks.

FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES, USA

BOOKS FOR BABIES PROGRAM

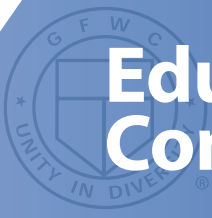
1420 Walnut ST, STE 450 | Philadelphia, PA 19102

P: 800/936-5872 | P: 215/790-1674 | F: 215/545-3821 | W: www.FOLUSA.com

Contact: Beth Nawalinski

FOLUSA's Books for Babies is a literacy program that targets the parents of newborns. The program works to educate parents about the important role they play in their child's development by providing them with a packet of literacy materials. These include a baby book, facsimile library card (to be redeemed for a real one at an appropriate age), and pamphlets describing the best ways to read to young children.





Education in the Community Program

GFWC

EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON

1734 N ST NW | Washington, DC 20036-2990

P: 202/347-3168 | F: 202/835-0246 | W: www.GFWC.org/ESO | E: programs@gfwc.org

GFWC offers ESO materials such as ESO Chapter Guidelines, the ESO reading list, and an ESO informational brochure.

TALBOTS WOMEN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

One Scholarship Way, PO BOX 297 | St. Peter, MN 56082

P: 507/931-1682 | W: www.Talbots.com/About/Scholar/Scholar.asp

AWARDS

CLUB

A \$50 award is given annually to one club in the nation to recognize creativity in implementing an effective Education in the Community Program. The award is based on narrative reports. State chairmen should forward the winning state entry to the national GFWC Education in the Community Program Chairman by March 15 of each year.

STATE

GFWC will award a certificate to one state federation in each membership category to recognize outstanding achievement in the GFWC Education in the Community Program. Awards will be made annually in honor of junior and general membership.

EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON

A GFWC certificate will be awarded annually to one state federation, in each membership category, to recognize outstanding promotion of and participation in ESO. Award presentations will be made in honor of junior and general membership participation.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY, USA/FOLUSA

Friends of the Library, USA will award certificates annually to each club participating in the Books for Babies program. Certificates will be sent by FOLUSA directly to clubs.

