



# CONSERVATION

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

 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 encourages awareness of our natural resources and caring for the world around us. It offers information and ideas to promote environmental appreciation and protection. Work to preserve, maintain, and restore our natural resources; protect habitats for plants and animals; and develop sustainable habits.

Environmental education; care for our air, land, and water; recycling; litter cleanup; partnerships with community groups, schools, and children; support of wildlife; energy conservation; tree planting; and beautification - this is what the Conservation Community Service Program is all about. Work to become more aware of conservation issues, enrich your communities, and become stewards of the environment. Enjoy the great outdoors!

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

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



### 2018-2020 CONSERVATION COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

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#### THINK BIG - 1,000 INITIATIVES

1. Be part of GFWC clubs planting 1,000 trees on Arbor Day.

Obtain free trees by joining the National Arbor Day Foundation. Request free trees from The National Wildlife Federation Trees for Wildlife program. Purchase tree saplings from a local nursery or organizations such as a scout group.

2. Be part of GFWC clubs donating 1,000 pairs of shoes to Nike or Soles 4 Souls.

Nike "Reuse-A-Shoe" program takes worn out sneakers and makes Nike Grind, a material used in sports surfaces and playgrounds. See website for a drop off site near you. Soles 4 Souls donates gently worn shoes for distribution to individuals in need. Zappos will mail 15 pairs free of charge or go to website for drop off locations.

#### 2018-2020 INITIATIVE

In 1994 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January was declared a National Day of Service. Each and every club in GFWC is asked to do a service project on that day. It may be in any area, any type of project. OUR GOAL IS 1,000 CLUBS PARTICIPATING.



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).



**SCHOOL GARDENING**

The **GFWC Woman's Club of Rock Hill (NY)** and **GFWC-York County Woman's Club (SC)** participated in a project to introduce first graders at seven different elementary schools to recycling, earthworm casting, seed sprouting, and vegetable gardening. Club members attended learning workshops, presented classroom lessons, and helped the students plant lettuce, carrots, and radishes in March. Gardens were checked and weeded until May and then harvested to make salads for a tasting party.



**SOLAR OVEN**

The **GFWC Round Table Club of Wyoming-Camnden (DE)** constructed a Solar Oven to learn about solar design. A pizza box was lined with black construction paper and aluminum foil. Chocolate, graham cracker, and marshmallow s'mores were placed in the Solar Oven that was then placed in the sun. Members learned that a lot of energy is needed to produce heat enough for cooking and that the use of solar energy can conserve energy resources.



**POSTERS AND ROBOTS RECYCLING CONTEST**

The **GFWC Pocono Mountain Woman's Club (PA)** and **DeQuincy Study Club (LA)** sponsored a recycling contest for students from Kindergarten to Sixth Grade at the Tobyhanna Elementary Center. Kindergarten through Third Grade students made posters depicting recyclable materials in their homes and how they were to be recycled. Fourth Grade through Sixth Grade students made robots out of recycled materials found in their homes. Prizes for First, Second, and Third Place were awarded at a school assembly.

**TOWN BEAUTIFICATION**

The **GFWC Metuchen-Edison Woman's Club (NJ)** built flower boxes with the help of a local Boy Scout troop for the Metuchen Train Station. The boxes were maintained with flowers and plants for each season, helping to beautify a public area of town. Members provided pinwheels for the garden boxes and encouraged commuters with children to take one to spread the word about child abuse awareness and prevention.

**IDEAS**

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

- Clean up trash and litter.
- Recycle.
- Go paperless.
- Find creative and purposeful ways to reuse glass containers.
- Donate or sell old clothing.
- Reuse plastic bags as liners in smaller trash cans.
- Stop using plastic grocery bags. Try a reusable cloth bag instead.
- Cut down on plastic water bottles and disposable coffee cups.
- Carry a reusable water bottle and/or travel coffee mug.
- Explore zero waste practices.
- Ride a bicycle.
- Start a compost pile.
- Make your own natural cleaning products.
- Visit a park on a regular basis.
- Enjoy nature.
- Plant a tree. Care for trees and donate funds for reforestation plans.
- Plant a garden - at your home, your clubhouse, in your community.
- Plant wildflowers.
- Conserve water and energy.
- Choose projects about the environment - conservation, reducing, reusing, recycling.



- Plan a clean-up day in your town.
- Educate children about how they can protect the environment.
- Invite local experts and members of community organizations to speak at club meetings about conservation and beautification practices.
- 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 community gathering places.
- Clean up trash after youth softball and baseball games and community events.
- Encourage preservation of historic properties.
- Visit a state or national park.
- Tour a botanical garden.
- Create community gardens to promote self-sufficiency.
- Advocate for and investigate local food and where it comes from.
- Preserve natural habitats to protect wildlife.
- Provide local shelters and sanctuaries 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 exists.
- Work with local officials and organizations to facilitate proper disposal of unused medicine and needles.
- Participate in 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.
- Investigate renewable energy projects and sources in your area.
- Participate in an awareness day such as Arbor Day, America Recycles Day, Earth Day, etc.

### THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX - MAKE YOUR PROJECT MORE MEANINGFUL

With all projects and programs consider diversity - work with other groups or for other groups, or highlight diversity as a theme.

1. Work with children - teach them to become stewards of the environment.
2. Partner with local organizations.
  - Other GFWC Clubs - local and throughout the United States
  - Other women's organizations
  - Men's organizations
  - Girl Scouts
  - Boy Scouts
  - Schools
  - An adopted class at a school
3. Connect with International Affiliates to support international issues.

### CONSIDER THESE PROJECT IDEAS AND BECOME INSPIRED!

- Obtain free trees by joining the National Arbor Day Foundation and plant them with your Federation Sisters on Arbor Day as we work toward a goal of planting 1,000 trees.
- Sponsor an Arbor Day or Earth Day poster contest with a certain theme. Display the posters at your town library or town hall. Award blue ribbons. Give each child a tree seedling along with stickers and flyers about trees and recycling.
- Purchase tree saplings and distribute them to community scout groups to plant on Arbor Day.
- Participate in Nike's "Reuse-A-Shoe" program which takes worn out sneakers and makes Nike Grind, a material used in sports surfaces and playgrounds.
- Participate in "Soles 4 Souls" by donating gently worn shoes for distribution to individuals in need. Zappos will take 15 pairs free of charge or go to their website for drop off locations.
- Host a recycling contest - recycled art, a poster showing recyclable materials, an item made with recycled



materials – for children, a school, a class, or club members.

- Work with children to teach them about water conservation, wildlife conservation, horticulture, electrical safety, beef cattle production, and farming.
- Hold workshops to teach vegetable gardening and flower gardening.
- School gardening – Provide classroom lessons and help students plant, weed, and harvest.
- Learn about and experiment with solar power.
- Organize a town beautification project – build and plant flower boxes and maintain them throughout the year.
- Celebrate Arbor Day by planting one or more trees in your town.
- Adopt a Highway – this program allows organizations to pick up trash along a designated area of the highway to keep their section clean, encouraging community pride, and providing publicity for your club.
- Begin a “Garden of the Month” or “Yard of the Month” project for homes and businesses. Find creative ways for judging such as enlisting children, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, or assisted living residents as judges. Choose a different group to judge each month and be sure to take a photo for the local newspaper.
- Sponsor the Yellow Tulip Award. Recipients are given a wooden yellow tulip with a certificate explaining the award and praising the recipient for improving their yards and beautifying their community.
- Donate environmental books to the library.
- Host a story time at the library – read earth-friendly books and give a copy to each attendee. Make a craft using recycled materials with the group.
- Find creative ways to recycle or reuse plastic grocery bags. Donate them to your local Food Bank. Crochet them into tote bags and bed mats for the homeless.
- Host or attend a flower show. Attend a class to learn more about gardening or volunteer to teach the class.
- Spread the word about the dwindling bee and Monarch butterfly populations, why they are important, and what can be done to help.
- Provide butterfly kits to an elementary class. Join the class in releasing them when they are mature and plant a butterfly garden at the school with the children.
- Hold a ladybug release at a park. Give each child a satchel of ladybugs to release after you tell them of the importance of ladybugs.
- Organize clean-up projects for neighborhoods in need of raking or weeding, or clean debris following bad weather.
- Host or assist at a trash clean-up event in your community. Work with youth organizations such as the 4-H or local schools.
- Recycle newspapers, copy paper, magazines, steel and aluminum cans, plastic, cardboard, and electronics.
- Collect empty prescription bottles, clean them, and deliver them to an animal shelter/Humane Society for use to send home medications with newly adopted animals. Collect dog and cat food, newspapers, towels, etc. for your animal shelter/Humane Society.
- Plant trees that offer food, such as berries or fruit, to wildlife.
- Teach members how to harvest needles from their Christmas trees and make pine sachets to enjoy all year long.
- Volunteer at an animal shelter.
- Host a collection event for an animal shelter or a wildlife sanctuary. Make it part of your Federation Day Celebration or have a special event at the facility to collect needed supplies.
- Host a fundraising event, such as an auction, for an animal shelter.
- Hold a “Walk for Those Who Can’t Talk” to raise money for your shelter and awareness of the animals waiting for adoption.
- Encourage students to be good stewards of the earth by teaching them about trees, landfills, water, land, and air protection, natural resources, litter, water conservation, energy efficiency, and sustainability.
- Invite a speaker to talk about composting, bicycling, solar energy, gardening, energy conservation.
- Maintain and improve your home and your clubhouse with insulating drapes, LED light bulbs, and an energy efficient hot water heater.

### CONSIDER INSTILLING CONSERVATION INTO ALL OF YOUR CLUB PROJECTS

- Arts – use recycled materials for art projects or hold a recycled art contest.
- Education – donate earth friendly books to libraries; read environmental books.



- Public Issues – study litter ordinances and legislation.
- International Outreach – water quality issues throughout the world.
- Communication and Public Relations – spread the word about Conservation issues.
- Home Life – learn about the proper disposal of your medication, energy efficient light bulbs at home, nutrition, and food sources.
- Domestic Violence – donate items to shelters that are environmentally friendly.
- Advocates for Children – work with children to teach environmental awareness, read environmental books, give books to children, and lead recycled arts and crafts projects and contests.
- Fundraising – raise funds for environmental projects.
- Leadership – volunteer at events to teach others about the environment.
- Membership – collect supplies for an animal shelter at your Federation Day Celebration.
- WHRC – study the history of your club’s Conservation projects.
- Community Improvement Project Award – make it a beautification or recycling program, an environmental project, or an awareness campaign.
- Photography Contest – enter outdoor photographs and environmental projects.
- Website Contest – Include conservation issues and projects on your website.
- Newsletter Contest – include Conservation tips in each newsletter.
- Writing Contests – write about nature, animals, and the earth.

#### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Continue the celebration of the 2016 Centennial of the National Park Service and discover America’s parks. Have fun and become a steward of these natural and historical treasures to ensure their existence for the next 100 years!

- Research the national parks and plan a visit to explore a park in your area.
- Plan a year-long study at your club meetings to educate your members about the National Park Service, its history, and the many parks, monuments, and historic sites throughout the country.
- Contact your local park and see what they need – do they need volunteers?
- Do they offer programs for kids? Volunteer to help or start a program of your own such as a nature walk or a craft class using recyclable materials.
- Inquire about adopting a trail or a section of the park. Assist with maintenance, planting of trees, flowers or plants, or cleaning up litter.
- Choose to stay at a national park when traveling.
- Inquire about programs they can offer your group. Topics could include conservation, preservation, recycling, natural resources, plants and animals, or the history and culture of the area.
- Support the parks with monetary donations or by becoming a member of the National Parks Conservation Association.

### **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.



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



## **RESOLUTIONS**

Resolutions adopted by GFWC are the foundation of our organization. They guide our call to action and are the basis of all programming and advocacy. Current Resolutions for the Conservation Community Service Program are listed here by Number and Title. Refer to the complete text of each in the [2017-2018 Resolutions document](#).

011-010	Chemicals in the Environment
011-020	Conservation of Natural Resources: Education
011-030	Development of the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)
011-040	Endangered Species
011-060	Forest Resources
011-070	Fuel Conservation
011-090	Global Warming
011-100	Hazardous Wastes Disposal Sites
011-110	Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)
011-120	Local Parks and Recreation Areas
011-130	Nuclear Waste Disposal
011-140	Ozone Depletion
011-150	Preservation and Beautification of Public Lands and National Forests
011-160	Renewable Energy
011-170	Soil Conservation
011-180	Support of Coastal Wetland Restoration
011-190	Waste Management and Recycling
011-200	Water Quality and Supply
011-220	Wilderness Areas
011-230	Wildlife Conservation
011-240	Protection of Oceans

