

EDUCATION and LIBRARIES COMMUNITY PROGRAM SERVICE SUPPLEMENT 2020 - 2022

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GFWC members promote education in both children and adults. Projects in the Education and Libraries 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.

Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) inspires and develops our global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service and innovation. Visit www.HOBY.org

Jumpstart's Read for the Record is an annual event which brings together millions of adults and children around the world to read the same book on the same day in order to raise awareness about the critical importance of early literacy and access to high-quality books.

- Sign-up for your club to read for the record. Partner with other local organizations to cover reading to all of the classrooms in your community on October 29, 2020. Visit www.jstart.org/read-for-the-record for information.
- Purchase additional copies of the Read for Record selection in English and Spanish to donate to each classroom and school library. Add your Club's name and logo to a commemorative bookplate inside of each one.

NEA's Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss. NEA's Read Across America also provides NEA members, parents, caregivers, and children the resources and activities they need to keep reading on the calendar 365 days a year.

- Become a member of NEA's Read Across America. Visit www.nea.org/readacross for information
- Read your favorite Dr. Seuss book in local schools or public libraries to children on March 2.

NJ STEM Pathways Network promotes education to create awareness, excitement and opportunities through statewide alignment of public and private STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) educational resources ensuring that New Jersey remains globally competitive in STEM industries and continues its rich history of innovation.

- Sponsor a scholarship for a local teacher to attend a NJ STEM workshop.
- Sponsor a STEM/STEAM event for students at your local library. Many libraries already schedule these events and would love to partner with you.

Education in the Community Program

Book Clubs

- Form a book exchange program in your club
- Form reading groups to study and discuss books proposed by members.
- Have a themed dinner/luncheon related to a book's theme; Take a field trip related to a book; Invite an author to come to your Book Club; Organize a book discussion group at the library, senior center or shelter.

Libraries

- Build or expand an existing library at a nursing home, shelter, local laundromat or food pantry.
- Sponsor a summer reading program or conduct story hour at a local library for children. Record members reading children's books on video and post the recordings on your Club's social media page along with instructions on making an easy make-at-home craft. Make the craft kits available at your public or school libraries.
- Observe and support National Children's Book Week- observed the first full week in May and/or National Library Week- observed the second full week in April.
- Invite a bilingual member or a school language teacher to read at a club sponsored bilingual story hour with books of other languages/cultures.
- Join your local friends of the library organization and have club members volunteer. Support events and initiatives to raise extra funds for your local library programs.

- Develop a "Books for Babies" Program - Prepare a kit containing a child's first reading book, brochures on reading tips, baby's first library card, a bib, etc. Present these kits to new parents. For more information, visit <http://www.booksforbabies.us/>
- Donate a book to the local public or school library in memory of or to honor a club member. Include your club name on a commemorative bookplate if the library does not do this.
- Recognize a local public or school librarian on National Library Worker's Day, April 6, 2021 and April 12, 2022, by providing refreshments for a coffee break, sending cards or donating a book, plated in the librarian's name.
- Encourage members to apply for library cards during library sign up month in September.

Scholarships and Awards

- Establish a scholarship for a local student. Consider adding an application and in-person interview with members of your club, or a themed essay such as "The Importance of Community Service".
- Coordinate with other local service organizations to give a joint four-year college scholarship.
- Provide a scholarship to a woman returning to school.
- Recognize the "Most Improved" Middle School Students with an award or Savings Bond and contact the local school to coordinate the award presentation at the end of the year awards ceremonies.
- Recognize the high school, middle school and/or elementary school students who were placed on the Honor Roll with an award.
- Recommend that a deserving woman pursuing post-graduate studies apply for a Margaret Yardley Fellowship. See NJFWC website for information and application.

Helping Schools

- Support schools, educators, and students with donations of school supplies, playground equipment, or fund field trips for underserved students.
- Reach out to a local school and offer to provide additional supplies for a STEM/STEAM project or lesson. Studies show that literacy skills improve over time when reinforced through inclusion in other subjects.
- Sponsor a Girls Who Code or similar STEM/STEAM focused club in a local school or library.
- Look for Donors Choose programs in your local schools and fund one on behalf of your Club. The teacher will send you updates and notes from the students telling you about the project. www.donorschoose.org
- **Focus on Literacy Program:** Focus on 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/.

Adult Literacy

- Invite a representative from a local literacy or an English as a Second Language (ESL) group to speak at a club or community event to explain their program.
- Encourage club members to become volunteers for Literacy Volunteers of New Jersey at <https://literacynj.org/> or call (800) 848-0048 or contact your local Salvation Army or community resource center to volunteer with their ESL program.
- Organize a book drive in your Club and/or Community to collect and donate collected books. Be clear about where the books will be going as many libraries do not accept donations of used books but senior citizen or veterans' centers may welcome them.

Youth literacy

- Host a sensory-friendly story and themed craft time at your local library.
- Adopt a classroom in a local school and have a club member volunteer to read to the class once a month, in conjunction with the teacher's agenda.
- Promote early reading by signing up to be a Local Champion of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program or partner with a group who is already involved in this effort. With local level partners, this program sends free books to children each month from birth to age 5 to help them become "reading ready" by kindergarten.
- Work with your local Junioresettes Club and the library to establish a teen advisory board or teen book review, develop teen services, and recommend additional library resources for teens.
- Develop a program that challenges students to read a designated number of books within a given time period. Present awards to students who achieve the goals.
- [Follow](#) literacy focused social media accounts and post their updates and programs on your Club's social media account (Read is Fundamental, Jumpstart, etc.)

- Sponsor a community enrichment project at the library such as a Book Character Parade or Literary-themed poster contest.
- **Promote Read for the Record:** a national campaign to bring young children together with valued grownups in their lives to **read** the same book, on the same day, in communities all over the world. ... written and illustrated by Oge Mora, as part of the world's largest shared **reading** experience. <https://www.readingrockets.org>
- Recognize Children's Book Week - the first full week in May - www.bookweekonline.com.

Review the GFWC 2020 - 2022 Club Manual - Education and Libraries Section for additional project ideas and resources.