

NEW JERSEY STATE FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS of GFWC

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Shirley Holly, President



SCHOOL COUNSELORS

The New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC) is a non-partisan, nonsectarian, non-profit organization founded in 1894 with a current membership of nearly 6,000 volunteers. Reflecting NJSFWC's interest in helping young women face a challenging future, the organization sponsors an annual Girls' Career Institute (GCI), a four-day mini-college and career exploration experience. This year, 2023, will mark its seventy-fifth year. The program affords a unique experience for approximately 180 girls finishing their JUNIOR year in a New Jersey high school. A local NJSFWC Woman's Club sponsors each delegate and pays the full \$300 tuition.

This program will be of interest to students who are considering attending college but may need some encouragement or incentive. Girls' Career Institute (GCI) provides the delegates with a taste of college life. They will live in a dorm, with a roommate on the Douglass Residential College Campus at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. They will eat cafeteria food, meet delegates from New Jersey towns that they never knew existed and take on the responsibility of scheduling their own free time. More importantly, GCI offers the delegates an opportunity to learn of the many career options available to young women today. **Since 1955 the NJSFWC has also offered a scholarship to an incoming Douglass Residential College freshman who attended GCI.**

The delegates will be challenged by successful women who followed their own vision and gained prominence in their chosen professions. The presenters have a wide range of skills. Past presenters have included women with careers in medicine, journalism, counseling, accounting, law, film production, transportation, law enforcement, architecture, graphic arts, public service, education, math, environmental stewardship, and science.

Your assistance is needed in the selection process. Distribution of the GCI flyer and collecting the information of junior girls at your school interested in attending GCI must be accomplished in January and then shared with your local Woman's Club GCI Coordinator. This will still leave enough time for the club representatives to review those submitted, possibly interview, and make a selection within the time frame allowed. The Club GCI Coordinator will be your primary contact with the sponsoring club. **Please ask all Juniors girls interested in the GCI program to complete the GCI Delegate Application Form included with this letter.** Parental permission is required to apply, the permission form is on the back of the application. The application form with signed permission should be returned to you or directly to the Club GCI Coordinator.

It is essential that applicants, parents, and the school administration understand that the student must be academically able to be excused from school for the four days of GCI June 5 – 8, 2023. This may involve foregoing some pre-exam reviews, taking exams early or missing a sporting event or other school activity. Accepting the GCI opportunity carries with it a responsibility to stay for the entire session. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE!** We request that you follow up with the delegate and alternate selected to ensure that they have cleared their academic and activity responsibilities to decrease the number of last-minute withdrawals.

If you have worked with GCI before, please pay attention to the NEW and UPDATED Registration Process. Upon selection as a Delegate or Alternate, the Club GCI Coordinator at the sponsoring club will provide the link for registration. They will also provide information about the club which will be *required* to complete the registration. Please provide students representing your school with the name, phone number and email address of someone from the school; this could be you or the principal; this information will also be *required* for registration. Selected students, together with parents or guardians, must start the ONLINE Registration by March 1, 2023. The school contact will receive an email notification when registration is complete.

An invitation to an Orientation Reception in the area will be sent to all DELEGATES and ALTERNATES and their parents by the end of April. A response to this invitation is especially important! If a delegate or alternate has a conflict with the local Orientation Reception, a list of other receptions will be provided. Receptions take place May 8 – 21. Attendance is highly recommended for Delegates AND Alternates.

Most questions can be answered by your local club GCI Coordinator. If your school is not currently collaborating with a local club, call or email the Director for additional information.

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