

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES SUPPLEMENT 2024-2026

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Projects in the Education and Libraries Community Service Program are designed to foster schools, as well as other educational institutions and opportunities. These projects promote libraries, literacy, and the love of a good book.

GFWC Community Connection Initiative: Support High Quality Learning Programs: Establish a working relationship with an early learning program in your area. Engage your members to participate with their ideas, talent, and time. Engagement can be volunteering to read, supporting a parent meeting, providing needed supplies for arts and crafts, providing books for the children to take home, and hosting a library card sign-up drive.

EDUCATION

- Establish a scholarship for a local student using these steps:
 1. Determine the purpose of the scholarship and target audience (honor or memory of a club or community member, special needs individual, woman who wishes to attend school later in life, a trade school student, etc.)
 2. Set a timeline that includes development, fundraising, advertisement, application, evaluation, award presentation, etc.)
 3. Create the application
 4. Determine the duration of the award
 5. Determine the funding source
 6. Determine a judging criteria
 7. Award the scholarship
- Donate supplies to underserved schools throughout your community. Supplies can include: notebooks, pencils, small dry erase boards and markers, a hole punch, flash drives, and incentives such as stickers and small toys.
- Adopt a special needs teacher for the school year providing class incentives, teaching materials, or other classroom support.
- Preschools and Head Start Programs are always in need of a variety of Manipulatives such as magnetic letters, counters and sight word games. Collect these at your first meeting in September or August with a Back-to-School Party theme.
- Create a student dictionary project to provide students with their own pocket dictionary. Each dictionary could include a handwritten or printed message from your members. These dictionaries are especially useful in English as a Second Language classes.
- Treat teachers throughout the school year with special gifts, such as a plant that says: 'Teachers plants seeds of knowledge that will grow forever.' (Don't forget to include your club's name and phone number).
- Support first year teachers with books for their classroom library or supplies, such as bandages, tissues, a sewing kit, small hand lotions or other useful items.
- Host a special event on Teacher Appreciation Day (first Tuesday in May), such as a breakfast or lunch, or provide thank you cards or other expressions of gratitude.
- Support a local Adult English as a Second Language class or an Adult Basic Skills class with needed materials, such as highlighters, notebooks, and large print magazines.
- Support the NJSFWC State Spelling Bee Since 1989 local clubs in New Jersey have sponsored spelling bees for 4th and 5th graders. Clubs can either hold a spelling bee on their own or ask schools to hold spelling bees., after which the club sponsors the three winners in the District Spelling Bees. Winners from the District Spelling Bee compete in the State Spelling Bee at NJSFWC Headquarters on Rutgers campus. Information will be sent to all clubs and can also be found on the NJSFWC website. (njsfwc.org).

LIBRARIES

Support your local library or school library. Projects could include:

- Promoting library history, events and services on social media.
- Offer assistance at the library with assisting patrons, story hours, and craft projects.
- Ask your school librarian about their needs. Many times, it is the school library funds that are cut from school budgets. Remember to talk with Middle School librarians as they are often overlooked.
- Create a bulletin board or other educational displays.
- Assist at fundraisers or book sales.
- Host children's events such as a Book Character Display or Literary Poster Contest.
- Celebrate National Library Week.
- Build a Free Little Library in your community and keep it stocked with books.
- Have a club meeting at your local library and help mend worn out library books or other tasks.
- Deliver library books to homebound citizens in your community.
- Host a 'Love Your Library Night' at the library with music, wine, hors d'oeuvres, silent auction and raffles.
- Create a Bookplate/Memorial Book Campaign in conjunction with your library. Hold a contest to design a bookplate and members of the community donate funds to purchase a book with the memorial plate have a memorial bookplate in honor someone.
- Hold a Literary Basket Auction with a book theme for your library.
- Support your state and local library legislative initiatives.
- Develop a library tour for children and end the tour with a library card and a book for them to keep.
- Consider the support and volunteer with libraries throughout the world:

BookShare.Org (www.bookshare.org) offers thousands of books to people with reading disabilities. As an online volunteer you can either scan books to be added to the collection or edit books that have been scanned.

Distributed Proofreaders (www.pgdp.org). These online volunteers turn public domain books into online books, mostly for Project Gutenberg. Many volunteers work on a book at the same time and proofread each other's work.

Learning Ally. (www.learningally.org) Many audiobooks are created with text-to-speech software that scans text from computer files and uses synthesized human voices to read the text aloud. However, illustrations or figures used throughout the books are not included. Online volunteers type those figure descriptions into the text, enabling students to receive ALL book material, not just the text.

LibriVox (www.librivox.org) is a nonprofit that coordinates online volunteers to record audio versions of public domain books.

Translators Without Borders (www.translatorswithoutborders.org) recruits volunteers who want to translate texts into different languages for NGOs and nonprofits.

Career Village. An online platform where students ask career questions that are answered by people working, or that have worked, in that field. All you need is a LinkedIn account to start helping students become better informed about the career decisions they are facing.

EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON (ESO)

ESO is an Honorary Reading Society open to all club members. To become a member, you simply read! For each membership level you read books from the ESO reading list and write brief reports which are sent to NJSFWC ESO Chairman, Patricia Sherwin. For all information about ESO, you can contact Patricia at (psher331@verizon.net).

****In an effort to go paperless, you may now submit your ESO reports online through this Google Form: <https://tinyurl.com/NJSFWCESO>***

There are a number of ways to support ESO activities and membership within your club, including:

- Establish reading groups for study and discussion.
- Organize a book fair.

- Sponsor a book-signing event.
- Promote local authors and their works.

MARGARET YARDLEY FELLOWSHIP

The Margaret Library Fellowship Fund provides fellowship grants to deserving women who are New Jersey residents pursuing post-graduate advanced studies at the school of their choice. Members are encouraged to place articles in their local papers and local colleges to advertise the fellowship. Application Forms and additional details are on the website under Materials – Education and Libraries.

Use the 2024-2026 GFWC Club Administration Guide – Education and Libraries section at gfwc.org for project ideas and additional resources.