

ARTS PERFORMING PROJECT IDEAS- 2026-2028

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The Arts Performing Program is designed to inspire clubwomen to be creative with programs and projects that incorporate Music, Literature, Drama, and Dance. Below are listed the types and some suggestions.

Act I. - Literature:

Use your club newsletter to promote community happenings and performances. Ask members to share poems or essays on a regular basis.

- Work with a local school to organize a "Literature Day" (or night). Literature celebrations can include dressing up as characters from books and providing activities related to the stories.
- Conduct a club poetry night with members reading their favorite poem or their original poem. Print poems in the club newsletter and the local newspaper.
- ENTER the member Creative Writing Contest. See Contest rules under Act 7 – NJSFWC Creative Writing Contests.
- Research the lives of prominent women in history and present a program to your club. Highlight these women's lives and wear appropriate costumes for the time in which they lived.
- Present the prominent women in history program at your District Performing Arts Festival.
- Perform in your District's Performing Arts Festival with a reading of a poem, or short story.

Act 2 – Music:

- It's NEVER too late to learn to play an instrument! Contact a local music store and see if they will offer a group and/or senior rate!
- Collect used musical instruments, refurbish them, and donate them to a local/needy school.
- Open club meetings with a patriotic song.
- Have a sing-along at your club meeting, senior center, nursing home, etc.
- Sing Christmas carols at a nursing home, veteran's hospital, or to local shut-ins.
- Attend concerts and musical programs at your local schools and colleges.
- Plan a group trip to a professional concert or musical program.
- Host a musical program at a club meeting or event. □ Support or participate in a community chorus.
- Start a club chorus; make it a part of your club meeting's opening ceremony.
- Give music and/or drama scholarships.
- Sing at your District Performing Arts Festival.
- Celebrate Music in the Schools Month (March) and National Music Week (first full week of May).
- Purchase tickets for children to attend a local school performance or performing arts event.

Act 3. – Drama

- Host a Mystery Party! This can be done just for fun or as a fundraiser.
- Check with your local High School to see if they could use some volunteers for the yearly spring musical. Put an ad in their program booklet to show your support.
- Organize a club outing for members to attend plays at your local schools, state and county colleges, or local theater group.
- Attend a performance of a play and then review the play at a club meeting.
- Perform a skit or one act play at your club meeting, nursing homes, pre-schools, senior centers, and/or at your District Performing Arts Festival. □ Assist scouts in earning a Drama badge.
- Create a club video/DVD lending library.

Act 4 – Dance

- Arrange a trip to see a performance of The Nutcracker or other ballet.
- Teach dances, such as line, square, or ballroom, to members and open the meeting to the public.
- Entertain with line dancing at nursing homes and/or assisted living facilities, club meetings and District Performing Arts Festival.
- Take ballroom, tap, Zumba or ballet dance lessons as a group.

Act 5 – District Arts/Performing Festival:

Participate in your District Performing Arts Festival. This includes Literature, Music, Drama, and Dance. Participants must be members of the presenting club. All copyrights must be adhered to and permission to perform required where necessary.

Festival Presentation Time Allotment

Five Minutes	Dramatic Reading, Individual Musical Performance, and Pantomime
Ten Minutes	Reading Creative Writings (500-word limit), Group Musical Performance
Fifteen Minutes	Monologues, Skits and Group Readings which consist of between 3-4 members
Twenty Minutes	Group Readings consisting of 5 + members
Twenty-five Minutes	Musicals and Plays

Each club at Performing Arts Day will get one vote, and the State Chairman will have the final say which acts from each District Performing Arts Festival that will be invited to perform at Convention. They will be asked to present the same performance at Convention. Convention performances will be **limited to a maximum of 10-12 minutes. This time limit will be strictly adhered to.** All props, instruments, etc. that are required for the performance, **MUST** be brought to Convention by the club and/or performer. NJSFWC and the hotel will not provide pianos, screens, tables, chairs etc. due to the cost involved.

Act 6 - NJSFWC Creative Writing Contests, Youth Short Story and Poetry Contest Categories:

Category 1	Grades K, 1 & 2
Category 2	Grades 3, 4 & 5
Category 3	Grades 6, 7 & 8
Category 4	Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

Youth Short Story and Poetry Rules:

1. Short stories are limited to 2,000 words. Indicate the word count on the manuscript.
2. Poems may be any style with a minimum length of 8 lines and a maximum of 30 lines.
3. Entries **must be typed, double-spaced, printed on one side only, with minimum margins of 1 inch on all four sides, and on 8 ½ inches x 11 inches paper.**
4. Students may enter one SHORT STORY and/or POEM for the local Club contests.
5. Clubs may submit ONE WINNER in each category for the statewide competition (ONE winner may be entered in the POETRY contest and ONE winner in the SHORT STORY contest.)
6. Authors must be amateurs with earnings from writing not exceeding \$500 annually.
7. Entries must be written during the contest year and may not have been published prior to the competition.
8. Manuscripts must be original work by the author.
9. **Entries must have the following information in the top right-hand corner of EACH page:**

- a. author's name
- b. e-mail address (if available)
- c. mailing address
- d. telephone number
- e. name of sponsoring club
- f. category
- g. title of the manuscript

10. The NJSFWC Literature Division Chairman Kathy Pavalkis, 17 Dogwood Drive, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

(e-mail pavalkisk@gmail.com) who must receive 2 copies of EACH entry no later than February 1st. DO NOT

MAIL "REGISTERED" OR "CERTIFIED."

11. All entries are judged on content, organization, and form. Decision of the judges is FINAL.
12. First Place State Winners in each Category will be sent for judging in the GFWC Youth Short Story and Poetry contests by the State Chairman. A release form must accompany the winning entry, and the release form must be signed by the author's parent or guardian.
13. Manuscripts will not be returned. Authors should retain a copy.
14. Winners will be notified by the submitting Club.

Act 7 - Member Creative Writing Contest Categories:

Poetry	Minimum 8 lines, maximum 50 lines, any style
Haiku	17 syllables (5 – 7 – 5), 1 entry per person
Play/Skit	One act, 10-15 minutes
Short Story	2000 word limit
Book Review	2000 word limit
Memoir	2000 word limit

Member Creative Writing Contest Rules

1. The NJSFWC Literature Division Chairman - **Kathy Pavalkis**, 17 Dogwood Drive, North Brunswick, NJ 08902, (E-mail- pavalkisk@gmail.com) must receive TWO copies of each entry no later than February 1st. DO NOT MAIL "REGISTERED" OR "CERTIFIED."
2. Entries must be written during the contest year.
3. Entries may not have been published prior to the competition and must be original works by the author.
4. Entries must be **typed, double-spaced, printed on one side only, with minimum margins of 1 inch on all four sides, on 8 ½ inches x 11 inches paper.**
5. **Entries must have the following in the top right-hand corner of EACH page:**
 - a. author's name
 - b. e-mail address (if available)
 - c. mailing address
 - d. telephone number
 - e. name of local club/state
 - f. category
 - g. title of manuscript
 - h. professional or amateur (earnings not to exceed \$500 annually) writer
6. Enclose a \$1.00 entry fee to cover all entries sent per person/per entry
7. All entries are judged on content, organization, and form. Decision of the judges is FINAL.
8. Manuscripts will not be returned. Authors should retain a copy.
9. First Place State Winners in Short Story and Poetry contests will be sent for judging in the GFWC Member Short Story and Poetry contests by the State Chairman. A release form must accompany the entry, and the release form must be signed by the author.
10. Winners will be notified.

Note: *By submitting the state winning entries in the Youth and Member Short Story and Poetry contests to GFWC, authors are providing GFWC with a royalty-free perpetual license to use, reproduce, post, display, create derivative works, sell, license, or sub-license the work in any media now known or later invented without limitation, for commercial or non-commercial purposes.*

Review the 2026-2028 GFWC Club Manual—Arts Section for additional projects and resources