

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM PROJECT IDEAS 2026-2028

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NJSFWC of GFWC members promote education in both children and adults. Project Ideas within the Education and Libraries Community Service Program are designed to support schools, strengthen educational institutions, expand learning opportunities, encourage literacy, promote libraries, and celebrate the lifelong value of reading.

EDUCATION PROJECT IDEAS: SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Establish a scholarship for a local student. Consider incorporating a formal application, in-person interview, or a themed essay such as *"The Importance of Community Service"*
- Coordinate with other local service organizations to offer a joint four-year college scholarship
- Provide a scholarship for a woman returning to school to complete or continue her education
- Recognize "Most Improved" middle school students with an award or savings bond presented at a year-end school awards ceremony
- Honor elementary, middle, or high school students who achieve Honor Roll status with certificates or small recognitions
- Encourage deserving women pursuing postgraduate studies to apply for the Margaret Yardley Fellowship. Application information is available on [NJSFWC](#) under Materials → Education and Libraries
- Publicize scholarship recipients through local newspapers, club publications, websites, or social media to highlight their accomplishments and the club support

SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS

- Donate supplies to underserved schools, including notebooks, pencils, dry-erase boards, markers, flash drives, stickers, small toys, or classroom incentives
- Adopt a special education classroom or teacher for the school year by providing sensory toys, communication boards, or classroom support materials
- Support preschools and Head Start Programs by donating manipulatives such as magnetic letters, counting tools, puzzles, and sight-word games
- Create a Student Dictionary Project by providing pocket dictionaries with handwritten encouragement messages. Personal dictionaries support literacy, spelling, vocabulary development, and independent learning, especially for younger students and English as a Second Language (ESL) learners
- Show appreciation to teachers throughout the year with small gifts, handwritten notes, classroom supplies, or appreciation events
- Support first-year teachers with classroom library materials or "teacher survival kits" containing tissues, bandages, hand lotion, glue sticks, dry-erase markers, and other classroom essentials
- Host Teacher Appreciation Day activities during the first week of May, including breakfasts, luncheons, thank-you cards, or classroom care packages
- Support Adult ESL (English as a Second Language) or Adult Basic Skills programs with notebooks, highlighters, dictionaries, or large-print reading materials
- Organize career awareness speaker programs where club members share professional skills, educational experiences, or career pathways with students
- Develop "Weekend Snack and Book Pack" programs that provide children with books and healthy snacks to take home on weekends

LIBRARIES

- Deliver library books or educational materials to homebound residents, senior citizens, hospitals, or assisted living facilities
 - Host “Love Your Library” community events featuring local authors, student performers, raffles, auctions, refreshments, or family-friendly activities that benefit local libraries
 - Create Bookplate or Memorial Book campaigns in partnership with libraries, allowing community members to donate books in honor or memory of someone special
 - Organize literary-themed basket auctions or fundraising events to support library programs and services.
 - Support local and state advocacy initiatives that promote literacy, library funding, and educational access
 - Develop library tours for children and families and encourage participants to obtain library cards
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- Assist libraries with summer reading programs, literacy outreach, and reading incentive activities
 - Help patrons learn to access eBooks, audiobooks, library apps, and online educational resources
 - Volunteer to assist senior citizens or adults with basic technology skills such as smartphones, computers, email, or internet safety
 - Assemble take-home literacy kits, craft kits, or educational activity packets for children and families.
 - Organize book drives for underserved schools, shelters, hospitals, military families, and community organizations.
 - Support multicultural literacy programs, diverse reading displays, or English-language learning activities
 - Assist with accessibility initiatives, including large-print books, audiobooks, and adaptive reading programs for individuals with disabilities
 - Help preserve local history by supporting oral history, genealogy, and archival projects through your local libraries
 - Develop intergenerational reading and storytelling programs that connect youth and senior citizens
 - Support community wellness initiatives through educational workshops, reading programs, and mindfulness activities hosted by libraries
 - Celebrate National Library Week each April through literacy and community library activities
 - Hold club meetings at local libraries
 - Volunteer at library fundraisers or book sales.
 - Support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), makerspace activities, coding programs, and educational enrichment opportunities for children and teens, including beginner coding clubs, LEGO robotics workshops, and arts-and-crafts maker projects
 - Consider supporting literacy initiatives through virtual and global volunteer opportunities such as:
 - [Bookshare.org](https://bookshare.org/) provides books for individuals with reading disabilities. Volunteers may assist by scanning or editing books to expand the collection
 - [Distributed Proofreaders](https://distributedproofreaders.com/) enables volunteers to convert public domain books into free electronic books for Project Gutenberg.

- [Learning Ally](#) provides accessible educational materials for students with learning differences and visual impairments
- [LibriVox](#) coordinates volunteers who record audiobooks of public domain works for free public access.
- [Translators without Borders](#) recruits volunteers to translate materials for nonprofit and humanitarian organizations
- [CareerVillage.org](#) connects students with professionals who answer career-related questions and provide educational guidance

Between The Pages

Reading Is a Force for Good

Between the Pages is designed exclusively for NJSFWC members and clubs! This engaging program encourages clubs and individual members to read, recommend books, and receive certificates recognizing their participation.

There are two categories:

- Reading Groups
- Individual Members

Rules and Guidelines

1. Register with the Chairman by sending your name, club name, and District as an individual member, or register your club's Reading Group by submitting the Reading Group name, Women's Club name, and District to Cheryl Dyer at cheryl.dyer17@gmail.com. Please note: all Women's Club Reading Groups and individual members must re-register each year, even if they participated the previous year.
2. Select your own book from any genre.
3. Each month, submit the title, author, and a brief 50-word review of the book(s) you have read to Between The Pages Chairman Cheryl Dyer. Please use the Between The Pages reporting form found on the NJSFWC website under Materials → Education and Libraries. Forms may be mailed, emailed, or submitted using the fillable online form.
4. Club Reading Groups only need to submit one form for each book the Reading Group reads. Please designate one Reading Group member to serve as the representative.
5. Certificates will be awarded to participating Club Reading Groups and registered individual members, based on the number of books read:
 - Scholar: 1–10 books
 - Honors: 11–20 books
 - Elite: 21 or more books
6. Between The Pages reading period begins September 15, 2026, and ends March 15, 2027.
7. Your review may be selected for inclusion in an Education and Libraries Almanac article.
8. This program is not part of the GFWC ESO program.

Between The Pages celebrates the friendships, memories, and inspiration that grow through reading together. Every member's reading journey is valued and welcomed.

EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON (ESO)

Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) is a GFWC International Honorary Reading Society within the Education and Libraries Community Service Program and is open to all club members. While Between the Pages offers a flexible reading experience, ESO follows a structured reading program based on selections from the official ESO Reading List. Members submit brief reports for each completed book as they progress through award levels. Reports are submitted to the Education and Libraries Chairman, Christine Novak, gwd3333@aol.com. ESO reports may also be submitted electronically using this form: <https://tinyurl.com/NJSFWCESO>. The program encourages personal growth, lifelong learning, and literary achievement, with award certificates presented at the annual NJSFWC Convention.

Clubs may support ESO activities by:

- Establishing reading groups for study and discussion
- Organizing book fairs
- Sponsoring book-signing events
- Promoting local authors and their works

SPELLING BEE

NJSFWC encourages Clubs to host their own spelling bee programs by following the guidelines outlined in the Club Spelling Bee Manual.

Information and materials are available on the NJSFWC website under Materials → Education and Libraries.

For additional guidance, resources, or support in organizing these events, please contact State Spelling Bee Chairman Marie DiMatties.

MARGARET YARDLEY FELLOWSHIP

The Margaret Yardley Fellowship Fund provides grants of approximately \$1,000 to deserving New Jersey women pursuing postgraduate or advanced academic studies at an institution of their choice.

Clubs are encouraged to:

- Publicize the fellowship through local newspapers, libraries, and colleges
- Share application information with guidance counselors and alumni offices

Application forms and details are available on the [NJSFWC website](#) under Materials → Education and Libraries.

Additional project ideas and resources may be found in the 2026–2028 GFWC Club Administration Guide, Education and Libraries section, available through [GFWC](#).