ARTS and CULTURE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM PROJECT IDEAS 2026-2028

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Art For Youth

- "Hire" student jazz combos, string quartets, or even the whole band to perform at club events.
- Host a craft time at the library to make simple crafts with children. Coordinate with the library story time and match the book theme or make a seasonal or holiday themed craft.
- Use members' or children's art for club greeting cards, cookbook or program covers, etc.
- Have a neighborhood or City music event such as a Battle of the Bands for teens or an outdoor Concert Series featuring area bands

Community Arts and Culture Projects

- Use an artistic event to raise funds to sponsor local community art and cultural programs.
- Sponsor an Artist in Residence program for local seniors to attend. Donate the supplies needed and provide transportation to and from the classes.
- Paint rocks with inspirational words and place them all over the city in places where they can be found.
- Make jewelry and cards for distribution to the homes of teen mothers or wives of soldiers serving overseas. Give them out on Mother's Day.
- Use an artistic event to raise funds to sponsor local community art and cultural programs.
- Feature art or art forms that are indicative of another culture at monthly club meetings—origami, Faberge Eggs, Ukrainian Easter Eggs, Russian icons, and others.
- Decorate a city park or municipal plaza for holidays and/or the seasons.
- Develop an art scavenger hunt at a local or online museum for your members or students. Select items for participants to find and snap photos (if allowed) or document the location in a notebook. Discuss the art pieces after the hunt.

Educate

- Award Art-related Scholarships to deserving students planning to continue their artistic endeavors.
- Identify members of your club with a talent for art and encourage them to share their knowledge with other members or perhaps with students from local art classes.
- Hold cooking demonstrations during meetings to introduce foods and customs from other cultures.

- Sponsor a trip to a museum or the theater for students and engage members as chaperones. “
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Engage

- Work to develop relationships between your club and other service organizations in your area to take on large projects together.
- Participate in or sponsor local arts and crafts contests
- Host a craft time at the library to make simple crafts with children. Coordinate with the library story time and match the book theme or make a seasonal or holiday themed craft.
- Use members’ or children’s art for club greeting cards, cookbook or program covers, etc.
- Set up tables at local festivals to sell handmade items from the club’s members as a fundraiser.
- Sponsor a craft time at a local elementary school or daycare…something hands-on, messy, and fun.
- Use an artistic event to raise funds to sponsor local community art and cultural programs.
- Sponsor an Artist in Residence program for local seniors to attend. Donate the supplies needed and provide transportation to and from the classes
- Create a Yard of the Month project partnering with the water authority or City. Have members decide which yard in their community deserves recognition with signage.
- Paint rocks with inspirational words and place them all over the city in places where they can be found.
- Decorate a city park or municipal plaza for holidays and/or the seasons.
- Develop an art scavenger hunt at a local or online museum for your members or students. Select items for participants to find and snap photos (if allowed) or document the location in a notebook. Discuss the art pieces after the hunt.
- Set up a member craft table to sell art at a hometown Farmer’s Market or craft fair. At your booth, make sure to include plenty of information on how to join a local GFWC club
- Hold a “Chalk the Walk” contest for elementary school children on sidewalks in front of a municipal building, library, elementary school, or other public venue. Choose a theme and have your club supply the chalk and ribbons for the winners.
- “Love the Police, Bus Drivers, Firefighters, or Veterans” – Assist local elementary students make Valentine cards for town police, bus drivers, firefighters, and veterans

Empower

- Make jewelry and cards for distribution to the homes of teen mothers or wives of soldiers serving overseas. Give them out on Mother’s Day.
- Make homemade holiday cards for nursing home residents or Meals on Wheels recipients.
- Host an art supply drive within your club. Contact local schools, daycare centers, and/or community centers to see what is needed.

- Design and decorate the garden in front of your clubhouse or meeting space, maintain it with local flora, and post signage indicating when your club meets.
- Provide artwork and help decorate a reading nook at the library, a local laundromat, or other location in your community.
- Donate books with an art and/or cultural theme to the public library, a school library, or a Little Free Library.
- Donate art books, sketchbooks, coloring books, crayons, and other art supplies to hospitals, doctor/clinic waiting rooms, schools, and shelters
- Visit or hold a club meeting at an art gallery, museum, local cultural center, or tourist center.
- Explore museums online with Google Arts and Culture or visit art galleries and art museums through their websites for virtual gallery tours.
- Hold a holiday centerpiece/wreath-making workshop at a local florist as a club program.
- Decorate a city park or municipal plaza for holidays and/or the seasons.
- Decorate ceramic piggy banks or have local artists, art classes, or town officials decorate them. Put them in area businesses to collect money for high school scholarships or to support the local high school theater programs, band programs, and glee clubs.
- Celebrate international holidays, such as the Chinese New Year, Oktoberfest, Cinco de Mayo, and Bastille Day, and learn more about the historical customs, food, and entertainment of those cultures.

Review the 2026-2028 GFWC Club Manual – ARTS and CULTURE Section for additional project ideas and resources.

SCRAPBOOKS

REQUIREMENTS FOR SCRAPBOOKS…This is a STATEWIDE COMPETITION

Competition Classifications for **SCRAPBOOKS**

Class A	1-12 Pages
Class B	13-24 Pages
Class C	25-30 Pages

Front and back of page = 1 page

Note: Awards will be given in each class, if merited.

AWARDS

- Gold Ribbon Awards will be given in each class based on the criteria stated in the Supplement. The winning entries will be decided by the judges and their decision is final. Scoring will not be provided. All entries should receive written documents from the judges.
- All Gold Ribbon winners will be on display at the NJSFWC Annual Convention.
- Entries will be handled with care, but they are entered at the owners' risk.

SCRAPBOOK CONTEST RULES

ALL CLUBS – NO MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

1. Maximum cover size (15" x 15"). The club's name must appear on the cover.
2. Information typed on white 8 ½" x 11" sized paper and pasted on the firs page to include:
    a. Club name, District and year
    b. Name, address, and telephone number of Club President and signature. Preparer's name may be listed. No signature is required.
    c. If *APPLICABLE* – Radio, TV stations and/or internet sites used. Include names and addresses.
    d. If *APPLICABLE* – Newspapers, including names and addresses, note if daily, weekly or bi-weekly
3. All books will be judged at the State Level. Books must be pre-registered with the official entry form to the Arts & Culture Chairman no later than **February 1st**
4. Books are to be delivered to Headquarters no later than March 5th
5. Include articles, materials, and pictures in chronological order from January 1st to December 31st of the previous year.
6. Book contents should include Photos, Programs, Place Cards, Name Tags, Club and District Newsletters (when Club name is mentioned) and other "souvenirs" of club.
7. Contents may include material from newspapers, magazines, TV and radio releases and online media.
    a. To validate television and/or radio coverage there must be a note on club letterhead, signed by the Club President, stating that the coverage was seen or heard. This validation must be pasted on the second page of the book.
8. Other criteria that must be followed:
    a. All material must be neatly clipped and pasted. Clipped name of newspaper or magazine and date published to be placed above printed matter.
    b. Neatly underline in RED the club's name, NJSFWC and GFWC
9. Paid advertisements are permitted. However, no political endorsements are permitted.
10. Book contents should be attractively presented and securely assembled using both sides of each page.
11. Plastic or cellophane pages may be used.
12. .Maximum pages are 30 (both sides)
13. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in a deduction of points
14. Decisions of the judges are FINAL.

SCRAPBOOK: Judging based on the following criteria:

First Page
Theme
Subject Matter
Photographs
Appearance
Neatness
Creativity
Diversity of Publicity

CATEGORIES FOR ACHIEVEMENT DAY ENTRIES

(Please read the rules listed below carefully as well as the "Arts and Culture Contest Rules" located on the njsfwc.org web site. Materials lists and recipes must be included with the registration form to be qualified for judging.)

1. **JEWELRY** – Handmade (List of materials MUST accompany entry. Display boards are permitted)
    - A. Necklace or Bracelet
    - B. Earrings
    - C. Other

2. **DOOR DECORATION** - not to exceed 25" in any direction (No fresh flowers on the item)

3. **GLASS WORK -** not to exceed 16 x 16
    - A. Stained
    - B. Fused
    - C. Leaded
    - D. Other

4. **PAPER ART** – Handmade
    - A. Greeting Cards
    - B. Cover, Invitation, Announcement (Maximum size 8.5" x 11") One only.
    - C. Paper Flowers - No larger than 12" at the largest point.
    - D. Adult coloring – (ONE SHEET - Maximum Size 12" x 12" – mounted on card stock and enclosed in plastic.
    - E. Other (Includes Origami, etc.)

5. **HOLIDAY -** Any Holiday (Small stand allowed for ornament.)
    - A. Holiday Decoration, no larger than 24" in any direction
    - B. Ornaments (Small stand allowed)
    - C. Other

6. **FAVORS** – No larger than 12" x 8: in any direction, can be edible (wrapped), Not judged for taste.

7. **EMBROIDERYY AND NEEDLEWORK** – Any method 9axmum size 20" x 24", including frame, etc.) May include picture, pillow, holiday stocking, 3-dimensional object, placemats, etc.
    - A. Cross Stitch/Counted Cross Stitch – stamped or not stamped
    - B. Crewel
    - C. Needlepoint
    - D. Other (ex. Hardanger, candlewicking)

8. **KNITTING**
    - A. Shawl/Poncho/Shrug/Scarf
    - B. Blanket/Afghan
    - C. Sweater—Adult, Infant or Child

D. Hat—Adult, Infant or Child
E. Other

9. **CROCHETING**
   A. Shawl/Poncho/Shrug/Scarf
   B. Blanket/Afghan
   C. Sweater —Adult, Infant or Child
   D. Hat—Adult, Infant or Child
   E. Other

10. **SEWING**
   A. Pillows
   B. Bags: tote bags, handbags, multi-purpose bags and other
   C. Other (Doll Clothes, hats, accessories, etc.)

11. **QUILTING**
   A. Pillow or Pieced quilt square - Not to exceed 16” x 16” Does not need to be backed or quilted.
      1. Machine
      2. Hand
   B. Quilt
      1. Machine pieced
      2. Hand pieced
   C. Other
      1. Machine
      2. Hand

12. **COOKING** – No boxed cake mixes. One (1) copy of recipe **MUST** accompany entry. Recipe may be reprinted in the **ALMANAC** or **DISTRICT BULLETIN**. Maximum presentation – 14” including plate. Items being taken to NJSFWC Convention **MUST** be on disposable dishes. Note: **ALL** entries will be cut and tasted. **NO** frosting or fillings that need refrigeration. All items must be completed before presentation to entry desk. **Food must be removed and may be discarded after judging.**
   A. CAKES/CUPCAKES
      1. Cake/Cupcakes (Any Variety)
      2. Decorated Cake/Cupcakes (Any Variety) (4 cupcakes decorated)
   B. COOKIES
      1. Drop
      2. Filled cookies (jelly/jam, nuts or other filling)
      3. Decorated Cookies (Any Variety)
      4. Other (Biscotti, Bars, Gingerbread, Brownies, rolled, cut out, etc.)
   C. QUICK BREADS & MUFFINS (Any Variety)
   D. CANDY
   F. PIES
   G. JAMS and JELLIES – NO Paraffin

13. **PAINTING– OIL** –Must be painted edge to edge if not framed. Maximum size 24” x 36” <u>including frame.</u> Wiring for hanging is not necessary.
   A. Landscape

B. Seascape
C. Portrait
D. Other Subjects (Still Life, Abstract, Buildings, Monuments)

14. **PAINTING – WATERCOLORS** – MUST BE FRAMED. Maximum size 24" x 36," including frame. Wiring for hanging is not necessary.
    A. Landscape
    B. Seascape
    C. Portrait
    D. Other Subjects (Still Life, Abstract, Buildings, Monuments)

15. **PAINTING – ACRYLIC** Must be painted edge to edge if not framed. - Maximum size 24" x 36," including frame. Wiring for hanging is not necessary.
    A. Landscape
    B. Seascape
    C. Portrait
    D. Other Subjects (Still Life, Abstract, Buildings, Monuments)

16. **PAINTING ON OTHER MATERIAL or MIXED MEDIA COLLAGE**

17. **DRAWING** – Pencil (Black and White, colored, charcoal, pastels, pen and ink). Maximum size to 24" x 36." Including matting and framing. Wiring for hanging is not necessary.
    A. Landscape
    B. Seascape
    C. Portrait
    D. Other Subjects (Still Life, Abstract, Buildings, Monuments)

NJSFWC ACHIEVEMENT DAY CONTEST RULES

All entries must be pre-registered with the District Arts & Culture Chairman, no later than two weeks prior to the District Achievement Day. Contact the District Arts & Culture Chairman to determine the pre-registration deadline for your district. **NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED UNLESS THEY HAVE BEEN PRE-REGISTERED.**

- All entries must be the work of the clubwoman.
- Entry must be completed within the past year (from May to May, based on the Convention date, except photographs must have been taken during the previous calendar year). Entry may not have been entered in a previous Federation contest.
- Only **ONE** entry per clubwoman in each category or sub-category.
- Members are limited to 10 entries total.
- Each entry must be labeled with member's name and address, club and district, category and sub-category.
- All entries must be accompanied with the current registration form.
- Entries will be handled with care; but are entered at owner's risk.
- Items may not be removed from exhibit area prior to check-out time.
- No copies, no kits, no pairs, or sets, except where noted.

- No stands except where noted.
- All measurements refer to greater dimension (Except circumference).

DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES ARE ALWAYS FINAL.
ALL FIRST PLACE RIBBON WINNERS AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL ARE EXPECTED TO BE ENTERED AT THE NJSFWC CONVENTION.

1. AWARDS - THE AWARDS ARE AS FOLLOWS:
   a. First Place - Blue Ribbon and Certificate
   b. Second Place –Certificate
   c. Third Place – Certificate
   d. Honorable Mention
2. All First Place winners are expected to be entered at the NJSFWC Convention.
3. There may be only one First Place Award in each category/sub-category level. There can be multiple Second and Third Place awards in each category/sub-category. This rule applies to all Levels of Experience,
4. Levels or Classes of entries in all categories.
   a. BEGINNER: If the Club member has up to three years in the medium.
   b. ADVANCED: If the Club member has more than three years in the medium OR Prior State FIRST/GOLD Ribbon Prize Award(s) in the same category as the current entry.
   c. *Very Important: If you have been using a specific medium for more than three years, even though you never submitted an entry using that medium, you are considered ADVANCED, not a beginner. Example: You have been knitting for more than three years, although you never submitted a scarf, you are ADVANCED not a beginner.

The following criteria will be used for judging:

Composition	The arrangement and proper proportion/relation of artistic form
Craftsmanship	The appropriate use of materials and techniques.
Creativity	The use of originality, expression and imaginative skill.
Technical	The use of color, shading, proportion, etc.
Workmanship	The appropriate use of fabric, yarn, etc.: the quality of stitching.
Flavor/Texture	Successful cooking qualities. The cooking must be tasteful and Combined with appropriate texture.

- All Judges for District Achievement Days and State Convention are Professional and/or very experienced in their field; therefore, they will judge the entry on a professional basis.
- Decisions of the Judges are final.

Although we will take every precaution to safeguard your entries, please note that NJSFWC is not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged items. Enter at your own risk.

You are responsible for delivering and picking up your entry to the Achievement Day venue and must sign for it upon pick up. The Registration Form Receipt must be signed upon pick up by you or whomever you designate to pick up your entries.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING AWARDS:
This rule applies to all Levels of experience. There may be only one First Place Award in each category/sub-category level. There may not be a First Place Award in every category. There can be multiple Second and Third Place awards in each category/sub-category and Honorable Mentions...

LEVELS OR CLASSES OF ENTRIES IN ALL CATEGORIES
IF THE CLUB MEMBER HAS: …… THEN THEY ARE CLASSIFIED AS:

BEGINNER - Up to three years in the medium
……
ADVANCED More than three years in the medium OR Prior State GRAND Prize Awards(s)-Gold Ribbon in the same category as the current entry.

VERY IMPORTANT: IF YOU HAVE BEEN USING A SPECIFIC MEDIUM FOR MORE THAN THREE YEARS EVEN THOUGH YOU NEVER SUBMITTED THE CURRENT ENTRY, YOU ARE ADVANCED, NOT A BEGINNER.
EXAMPLE: IF YOU HAVE BEEN KNITTING FOR MORE THAN THREE YEARS, ALTHOUGH YOU MAY HAVE NEVER SUBMITTED A SCARF, YOU ARE STILL NOT A BEGINNER, YOU ARE ADVANCED.

PHOTOGRAPHY –

The GFWC Photography Contests encourage members' artistic expression and visual storytelling, while recognizing originality, visual impact, and technical skill in photography. GFWC offers two opportunities to participate in the Photography Contests. You don't need an expensive camera to take great pictures. Today's cell phones offer a way to take creative pictures that are contest worthy.

18. **OUR LIVING WORLD:** Highlight the people, animals, and plants that make out world a beautiful place to live. These photos can showcase a close-up view, such as the stamen of a flower, to a wide vista, like the Serengeti's animals form a helicopter.
    A. Color
    B. Black & White

19 **PLACES HERE AND THERE*:*** Capture architecture or natural beauty in the air (clouds, moon, stars, etc.), land (mountains, deserts, meadows, etc.), and water (oceans, rivers, waterfalls, etc.) locally or around the world.
    A. Color
    B. Black & White

20. **STATE PRIDE:** Showcase images that make you proud of your state! Examples are Rocky Mountains, university football games, saguaro cactus, pecan pie, the 16th U.S. President, etc. These photographs must be taken in the state submitting them.
    A. Color
    B. Black & White

21. **GFWC LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT CONTEST** These photographs capture the special moments in the lives of GFWC clubwomen as they actively meet, plan, advocate, volunteer, or celebrate in groups or one-on-one..

A. Color
B. Black & White

RULES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

1. Photographs must be the original work of the member submitting the photograph.
2. All contest photographers must be dues paying members of an active GFWC club.
3. Photographs for the first year of the Administration must be taken between January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026.
4. Contestants must be considered an amateur photographer.

ARTWORK GUIDELINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

Judges will look at the overall creativity of subject and quality of the photograph. Photos may be taken using film or with digital cameras and may be color or black/white.

PHOTOGRAPHS FOR STATE JUDGING

Printed Photography Submissions:

- Photographs may be vertical/portrait or horizontal/landscape.
- Photographs must be the original work of the member submitting the photograph.
- Each photograph must be an 8 X 10-inch print.
- All photographs must be mounted on a rigid 8 X 10-inch board and overall thickness may not exceed 3/8 inch. No mattes, frames, or hangers are to be included.
- Photographs may be taken using film or with digital cameras and may be color or black and white.
- Printed photographs will not be returned.
- Each photograph must have a label affixed to its back with the following information:
  ø Contest name: *World in Pictures* with category or GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit
  ø Photographer's Name, Email Address, Mailing Address, and Phone Number
  ø Name and State of the sponsoring club
  ø Title and a brief caption giving location, date, and other pertinent information about the photograph
  ø Arrow indicating the top of the photograph

DEADLINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

State Level: Clubs must send entries to their respective State Photography Contest Chairman for judging. State entry deadlines are determined by the respective State Federation.
National Level: To be eligible for national judging, submit one winner from each State Federation for each contest and category, along with a cover letter from the respective State Photography Contest Chairman listing the names of the winning submissions and the signed GFWC Creative Arts waiver from each state winner. Photograph entries must be postmarked by May 15, and sent to: GFWC Photography Contest, 1734 N Street, NW Washington, DC 20036-2990.

- National Level submitted photographs will not be returned.

- The following awards will be presented at the GFWC Annual Convention for the top three national entries in each contest and category:

First Place	$100
Second Place	$75
Third Place	$50

DISCLAIMER

By submitting your photographs to GFWC for the GFWC Photography Contests on the national level, you are providing GFWC with a royalty-free perpetual license to use, reproduce, post, display, create derivative works, sell, license, or sublicense the work in any media now known or later invented without limitation for commercial or noncommercial purposes.

GFWC CREATIVE ARTS' WAIVER FORM

The GFWC Creative Arts Waiver Form is attached to this Photography Contests program. For further information, contact GFWC at Programs@gfwc.org or call 202-347-3168.