



# JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM: ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN



GFWC Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children is designed to encourage all Woman's, Junior Woman's, Juniorette, and International Affiliate Clubs to make a difference in the life of a child by being an advocate. The program was envisioned as a way for clubwomen to provide a voice for children and to teach and encourage parents and other caregivers to advocate for children at the grassroots level. The definition of child advocacy is "support for children who are in a vulnerable position in society or in a vulnerable situation." We aim to honor our roots and be a voice for children. Clubwomen can be an advocate by working to: (1) Ensure that children are protected from harmful situations. (2) Encourage healthy physical and emotional lifestyles. (3) Impact policy to improve children's lives.



**GWC-NC Chairman**  
**Casandra Webb**

## Be Inspired and Get Creative!

- Advocate for art curriculums and outdoor activities for your local schools and/or states. Ask the PTA to partner with the club by encouraging parents to join the advocacy effort.
- If art funding is cut or eliminated, check if local schools qualify and have applied for funds under the Every Child Succeeds Act.
- Engage in art therapy projects with children in hospitals, shelters, and other facilities.
- Create "worry rocks" with children who are attending school for the first time.
- Investigate grants, such as those available through the U.S. Department of Education, including the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants and the 21st Century Community Learning Center Funding.
- Work with special needs children to create Vision Boards or Dream Boards using magazine cut outs.
- Support under-funded schools and after-school enrichment programs by collecting and donating supplies for all types of art programs, including music and theater.
- Provide volunteer support to community youth organizations that promote arts, outdoor activities, and/or other enrichment programs including civic engagement.
- Advocate for programs that directly benefit children at local and nearby state parks.
- Partner with a local school to build an outdoor classroom or school garden.
- Create a learning habitat for children at a local school or park.
- Advocate through your State's legislation for bills that benefit children's physical and mental health.
- Advocate for law enforcement training on mental health awareness for children.
- Research advocacy groups in your area that support children's physical and/or mental health.
- Learn about and promote Ecotherapy or Nature Therapy, which can help children with anxiety, depression, mental fatigue, eating disorders, feelings of isolation, and other emotional and mental ills.
- Help fourth-grade students secure their own Every Kid Outdoors pass through the Outdoor Alliance for Kids, which will provide them free access to national parks across the country.

## Resource Organizations



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF AMERICA**



**Girl Scouts.**



**RMHC**



[KidsHealth.org](http://KidsHealth.org)



OUT



National Park Foundation



Save the Children.

Please sign up for the Member Portal at [WWW.GFWC.ORG](http://WWW.GFWC.ORG) for access to the Club Manual for additional project ideas, Resource Organizations information and the list of GFWC Affiliate Organizations