



ARTS & CULTURE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



The study of art and culture enriches the human experience. Art education improves problem solving and critical thinking skills, builds focus and perseverance, and nurtures creativity, confidence, and collaboration. Cultural awareness promotes effective communication and profoundly increases the ability to appreciate and enjoy a variety of new people and experiences.

Community Connection Initiative:
Developing Community Oriented Art

Resource Organizations



- Create kits for children that contain all the pieces they need to create an art project. Put them into a bag so that kids or teachers can pick them up for a class. Have them send you pictures of the completed projects to share on Facebook.
- Make cards for people in homes who cannot get out or have visitors due to the pandemic. Create a card kit and instruction worksheet.
- Support GFWC-NC Annual Arts Festivals at Club, District & State level.
- Host an art supply drive within your club.
- Be creative – design and decorate a garden or help build, paint, and decorate a Little Free Library.
- Hold an art contest for art projects made using recycled materials.
- Donate books with an art theme to a public, school, or little free library.
- 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.
- Host an international cooking class. Choose a country or region as a theme. Send recipes out ahead so members and friends can participate and enjoy the dish in their own home too.
- Present a few interesting facts at club meetings to acquaint members to a variety of international, regional, and local cultures.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



The GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program reminds GFWC members that each of us is a part of a larger society and is responsible for undertaking actions that will create a better quality of life and foster a sense of community—locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. The four “broad strokes” of this effort include:

- 1) Citizenship; 2) Crime Prevention, Safety, and Disaster Preparedness; 3) The Needy, Hungry, and Homeless; and 4) military personal and veterans

Community Connection Initiative:
Preparation Saves Lives

Resource Organizations



- Engage the community on key issues, identify positive solutions, and stimulate public policy initiatives.
- Work together to “Get Out the Vote!” Send out postcards with reminders on how to register and vote.
- Advocate for civics education in schools, ensuring students acquire an understanding of government.
- Support and thank local police and fire departments for keeping the community safe. Have a breakfast or lunch delivered as a way to acknowledge their service.
- Share fact sheets with members and friends, including “The Top Ten Financial Scams Targeting Seniors,” and “Eight Tips for How Seniors Can Protect Themselves from Money Scams.”
- Work with first responders and your local high schools to provide presentations on at-risk driving practices, such as texting and failure to use seat belts.
- Collect socks and donate this “number one most requested item” to homeless shelters.
- Host a holiday food drive for the local food pantries or needy families.
- Organize a club day of service at a local food pantry by donating essential goods and sorting and organizing their shelves.

EDUCATION & LIBRARIES, and ESO COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



GFWC members promote education in both children and adults. We aim to help others, while we also continue to learn. Projects in the Education Community Service Program are designed to foster schools, as well as other educational institutions and opportunities, and to promote literacy, libraries, and the love of a good book. Through these efforts, we encourage the growth of individuals and communities at home and around the world.



Resource Organizations



- Advocate for reading opportunities for children and adults with special needs and how you can help during these trying times.
- Adopt a special needs teacher for the school year, providing class incentives, teaching or craft materials, and other needed support.
- Establish a scholarship for a local student.
- Organize a Read Across America event in March during National Reading Month.
- Support schools, educators, and students with donations of school supplies, playground equipment, or fund field trips for under-served students.
- Organize book-themed events, such as a book walk, book fair, book bingo, book drive/swap, book reading challenge, or book club of "reading buddies."
- Donate large size print books to your local senior center or adult basic literacy classes.
- Establish a Little Free Library in your community, choosing an area where books are scarce.
- Celebrate National Library Week and National Library Workers Day in April by saying #ThankYouLibraries on social media with photos and stories about the library.
- Consider supporting a library in another part of the world.
- Participate in the on-line GFWC ESO reading book club.

ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



Resource Organizations

The GFWC Environment Community Service Program encourages us to become stewards of the earth by working to; 1) Preserve the World's Resources, Protect wildlife and Domesticated Animals, 2) Live Sustainably, and 3) Beautify our Communities and Enjoy Nature



- Join the Arbor Day Foundation and receive ten free trees to plant or donate to a threatened rain forest or national forest.
- Save trees by initiating a "Go Paperless" campaign.
- Educate members on the dangers of poor air quality, which is the number one cause of premature death around the world.
- Educate club and community members about the importance of pollinators and how to create healthy habitats where they can thrive.
- Provide a program for club and community members that highlights the best native plants for food and cover.
- Learn about ocean wildlife in peril, such as sea turtles and manatees, and organize volunteer or fundraising opportunities to help protect these species.
- Commemorate America Recycles Day (November 15), a program of Keep America Beautiful, by organizing a special event or on-line awareness campaign. Visit the website for toolkits and ideas.
- Hold a community workshop on sustainable gardening.
- Plan a walk or hike just to enjoy the great outdoors together.
- Support GFWC-NC past and current projects: Blue Ridge Parkway, Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum, NC Aquarium Society, NC State Museum of Natural Resources and NC Zoological Park.

HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



The human body, mind, and spirit comprise our health and wellness. To improve our wellbeing, we must address three key components: 1) Nutrition, 2) Disease Prevention, and 3) Physical and Emotional Care. This Community Service Program aims to explore the various opportunities for awareness and advancement of each of these vital areas.



Resource Organizations



- Share information with club and community members about making wise food choices.
- Hold a “Healthy Food Drive,” requesting donors to contribute nutritious foods from Feeding America’s Healthy Food Donation List. Establish a drop off location and coordinate delivery to local food pantries or communities in need.
- Celebrate National Nutrition Month in March with a healthy potluck dinner at your club’s monthly meeting.
- Recognize National Immunization Awareness Month in August.
- Provide care items for cancer patients, such warm blankets, socks, moisturizers, lip balm, water and hard candy. Diversions such as magazines and crossword puzzles, are also a great idea.
- Share information with club and community members on various topics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), such as disease and conditions and prevention.
- Celebrate American Heart Month in February by planning programs on women’s heart health and posting support for National Wear Red Day®
- Post and/or share information on the safe disposal of unwanted medications and the location of medication disposal drop boxes.
- Share the risk factors, signs, and symptoms of someone in danger of suicide, outlined by the National Institute of Mental Health.
- Hit the mat with a workshop for club and community members on yoga and meditation, or an alternative form of exercise to stay fit, healthy, and happy, physically and mentally.
- Educate & advocate during Mental Health Awareness month in May.

GFWC Affiliate Organizations

Platinum

Alzheimer's Association
Heifer International
Hope for Justice
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Shot@Life - United Nations Campaign

Gold

Canine Champions
Healthy Moms Strong Babies - March of Dimes
Operation Smile
US Fund for UNICEF

Be sure to visit the Community Service Tab on GFWCNC.org and sign up for the Member Portal at WWW.GFWC.ORG for access to the Club Manual for additional project ideas and resource information.