

GENERAL FEDERATION of WOMEN'S CLUBS



GFWC Juniors' Special Program:
Advocates for Children
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Volume Three December 2022 Newsletter

December brings holidays for many with time to celebrate with family and friends. It also brings the first day of winter with the Winter Solstice on December 21. However, the weather doesn't seem to care about a date on the calendar and temperatures are dropping for many areas of the country. GFWC clubs can support families with children who are encountering financial hardships by organizing drives for winter gear - coats, hats, mittens, scarves, and boots. Clubs can also organize or support toy drives and holiday food collections for families in need. If your community has a fuel assistance program, clubs could make a monetary donation so that more families can receive help for their heating bills.

Remember, you can't get sick from being in the cold and being outdoors when it's cold has many benefits. Taking a walk, or if you have snow, building a snowman, offers physical benefits for children and adults. Dress warmly, in layers, and go outside and play with your children, your neighbor's children, or your inner child. Enjoy its many benefits—you burn more calories when doing activities in the cold, the sun offers some warmth and a natural dose of vitamin D, and it's good for our mental health



As the last month of the year, December also brings the volunteer work of GFWC clubs in 2022 to an end. GFWC Clubs should begin the process of writing their *Award Entries* now. Those Award Entries will then go to State Chairmen, according to your own state's deadlines.

With GFWC's Top Ten Projects in mind, here is a **Top Ten list for State Chairmen**—

1. Do you have access to the GFWC Member Portal? If not, this link to GFWC's Member Portal FAQs will help--<https://www.gfwc.org/membership/gfwc-resources/member-portal-faqs/>
2. Make sure you know your State's Federation deadlines as well as those of GFWC.
3. Much like our "elevator speech" have a "why speech" in response to question, "Why are the award entries and those statistical forms important?"
4. Although not an official contest, there was a challenge to states to get a governor's proclamation for GFWC Advocates for Children's Week. Do you know if your state applied for a proclamation? Did you receive one?
5. As a State Chairman, your responsibility is to submit a Top 10 List and a Club Creativity Award (see #6). Some state chairmen may use outside judges, some may do it themselves. Either way, it is suggested that all the club submissions be read. As they are read, mark those that stand out. Then go back through them to use those notes to help take all those club projects and create a list of Top Ten Projects from your state. Remember, the money raised, the number of members who volunteered on the project or their volunteer hours are not as important as what happened. Much like the term paper you wrote that had to include the who, what, when, where, why, and how, those descriptive words DO matter here. This list has a two-page minimum so some project descriptions may need to be condensed. Please do not include more than 10 projects on your list as anything over 10 projects will not be judged, as this chairman creates the Advocates for Children Top 10 List.
6. The Club Creativity Award is the project you choose as the most creative project in your state from all those sent to you. You have a whole page to describe the project, photos can be used if the club submitted a photo. Please think about the project's impact to the community as you read through the submissions and look for something new and innovative.
7. Did you know that as a State Federation Chairman, you should write up the activities initiated and organized by you in your role as State Chairman. Although you are limited to 1 page, single-spaced, this is your opportunity to sparkle and shine! As there was a change in administration in June of 2022, remember to reach out to your predecessor to add some of the activities she accomplished in your report.

8. Each *State Award* Entry and State Creativity Award Nomination must have a Cover Sheet when sent to this GFWC Chairman. These Cover Sheets are on page 11 & 12 of the GFWC Club Manual that you can download from the Member Portal. There is a reminder on the State Award Entry that you can submit no more than 3 pages with no more than 2 pages describing 10 projects and 1 page describing State Federation and/or State Chairman activities.
9. Items this chairman would like to see in the State Award Entry Top 10 List would include projects done during GFWC Advocates for Children's Week, projects completed using the Community Connection Initiative to add some sparkle to a local shelter, youth center social service office or other emergency location, and projects that provide volunteer service to the GFWC Affiliates listed on the Advocates for Children pages of the Club Manual.
10. The Award Entries should include a description of the volunteer service or funding that is creative and new as well as any partners within the community or GFWC Affiliates. Did the project engage members, interest the public to become a member, or raise awareness of GFWC to the community? Did you use social media and include GFWC hashtags? Did you submit it to the GFWC Blog? Did the project impact GFWC goals for this program area?

