

Education & Libraries + ESO

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END YOUR CLUB YEAR WITH A PLAN

At this time of year, some clubs have planned what they will be doing for the rest of the club year, and some have looked ahead to Fall as well. There is no right or wrong way, but of course, planning has many benefits. Planning provides a runway to engage with schools before the end of the year, time to collaborate with other community organizations, and budget appropriately if funding is needed.

GFWC will begin a new administration, and there will be an update to the Community Connection Initiative, but supporting education, libraries, and encouraging reading will always be part of this community service program. So, don't wait to plan something for Fall until August or September - there is a lot of time for your club to do many great things!

Need a Fresh Idea?

Here are a few ideas for your club. Some may be new, and some may be tried and true.

Spring: Poetry & Early Literacy

- March 2: Read Across America Day – Celebrated on Dr. Seuss's birthday; a massive initiative to get kids excited about reading.
- March 21: World Poetry Day – A UNESCO initiative to support linguistic diversity through poetic expression.
- April: National Poetry Month & School Library Month – Thirty days dedicated to the "pure delight" of poetry and the importance of school librarians.
- April 12: D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read) Day – In honor of author Beverly Cleary's birthday, families are encouraged to stop and read together.
- April 23: World Book and Copyright Day – A global tribute to books and authors.

Summer: Libraries & Diverse Stories

- May 4–10: Children's Book Week (Spring) – The longest-running national literacy initiative in the US.
- June: Rainbow Book Month – Highlighting LGBTQIA+ authors and stories.
- July 30: Paperback Book Day – A great excuse to celebrate the accessible, portable format that brought books to the masses.
- August 9: National Book Lovers Day – A day for bibliophiles to ignore their "to-read" piles and just dive into a favorite story.

Autumn: Global Literacy & Knowledge

- September 8: International Literacy Day – A UN-recognized day focusing on literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights.
- September: Library Card Sign-up Month – A push to remind everyone that the most valuable card in your wallet is free.
- October: National Book Month & Dyslexia Awareness Month – Focusing on the importance of reading and supporting those with learning differences.
- October 4–10: Banned Books Week – Spotlighting the value of free and open access to information.

Winter: Family & Giving

- November: National Family Literacy Month & National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) – A month for families to read together and for aspiring authors to write 50,000 words.
- November 15–21: American Education Week – Celebrating public education and honoring the people who make a difference in students' lives.
- December 24: Jólabókaflóð (The Yule Book Flood) – An Icelandic tradition where people exchange books on Christmas Eve and spend the night reading. **Fun Fact: The term Jólabókaflóð (yo-la-bok-a-flot) stems from World War II, when paper was one of the few things not rationed in Iceland, making books the ultimate holiday gift.

Education and Libraries Award Entries – Last Call!

Education and Library, as well as ESO State Chairmen, please note that your STATEWIDE Award Entry is due by **March 15, 2026**. Sending via email is preferred.

You should have two separate reports – one for Education and Libraries and a separate ESO report, even if you are the chairman for both areas. The awards are handled separately.

For ESO, please report the number of books read and the number of club members who participated. *There are no hours to record as this is not a volunteer project.* It is a structured reading program that is educational and stimulates a desire for self-improvement. As soon as the chairman has recorded everything, you can order your ESO certificates from the GFWC Marketplace to distribute to members.

Winning entries for ESO will be from projects completed to encourage reading, not just the number of books read by members. The focus is to encourage reading in your club, state federation, and community.

Attending GFWC Convention?

We hope you are planning to attend the GFWC Convention being held in June in Scottsdale, Arizona! We hope you will attend the From Pages to Potential – Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) Breakfast on Monday morning. Education and Library, along with ESO awards will be presented during this time.

Project Idea – Get Caught Reading

May is Get Caught Reading Month!

This was shared last year, but it is such a great idea, I wanted to share it again in case your club didn't have time to plan this last year. Get Caught Reading is an annual celebration that promotes the joy and benefits of reading. It's a fun way to encourage children to develop a love for reading and emphasizes the excitement and pleasure of being absorbed into a good book. There is still time to plan to "Get Caught Reading".



There are many ways you can get involved. Share photos of yourself reading on social media, organize reading events at schools or libraries, or simply make a conscious effort to read more throughout the month.

Have a well-known community member get involved. Perhaps your Mayor, Elementary School Principal, or some other local "celebrity." Connect with your school or public library to partner or hold the event at their location.