



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

GFWC Virginia 2024-2026

Education@GFWCVirginia.org
ESO@GFWCVirginia.org



For Yourself:



Join the ESO! Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) is an honorary educational society open to all GFWC members. ESO provides clubwomen with a structured reading program that is both educational and stimulates a desire for self-improvement.



- Complete the pledge and pay the \$1.50 application fee
- Maintain a reading log.
- Participate in the optional GFWC Virginia ESO Book Club via Zoom every other month for discussion and conversation.
- Continue to pursue self-improvement through personal study.
- Work to achieve higher ESO levels.

- Pledge: Complete enrollment application, pay \$1.50 fee, and start to fulfill the reading requirements.
- Member: Complete four books from four different categories, for a total of 16 books read.
- Star Level: Complete four books from ten different categories, for a total of 40 books read.
- Torch Level: Complete four books from sixteen different categories, for a total of 64 books read.
- Century Award: Read 100 books. Continue to the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Century levels.
- Diamond Award: A Diamond Award member has completed 1,000 books.

If you have been struggling with vision loss or a physical impairment that prevents you from reading a printed book, you may be eligible for audiobook services from the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled. Reading materials are sent through the mail to any city in Virginia, and the service is free!



www.LOC.gov/NLS

[Request More Information](#)

Write Your Own Memoir!

Memoirs are a great way to share your life story. Writing also helps with mental clarity, enhances memory and recall, and provides a sense of purpose. What do you want your kids and grandkids to know about your life? What are your favorite GFWC memories? What advice have you learned that you can leave to others? Write down your memoir or interview members of your club and write a club history together. Share it or not, or submit your short stories for the State Writing Contest!

Project Ideas:

- Join the ESO! A self-guided reading program helps “Enlighten Your Own Pathway”
- Take classes at a Lifelong Learning Institute. Teach classes or help by volunteering
- Visit and promote your local library. Books, programs, online resources... all for free!
- Write your own memoir or club history. Reminisce and discuss with friends
- Help your local public library by supporting their Friends of the Library organizations
- Take a trip to the Library of Virginia in Richmond, and the Library of Congress in D.C.



For Adults:

Lifelong Learning Institutes enrich the intellectual and social lives of older adult learners. Many are nonprofit, volunteer organizations with inexpensive classes geared toward adults 50 and older, and provide cultural and social experiences.

LLI at Virginia Tech: Blacksburg
www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning_

LLI at UVA: Charlottesville
www.olliuva.org

LLI in Chesterfield: Midlothian
www.llichesterfield.org

LLI of Northern Virginia: Annandale
www.llinova.org

LLI at JMU: Harrisonburg
www.jmu.edu/lli

LLI at George Mason University: Fairfax
www.lli.gmu.edu

Lifelong Learning Society: Newport News
cnu.edu/lifelonglearning

Lifelong Learning Institute: Manassas
www.LLI-Manassas.org_

ElderStudy: Fredericksburg
www.elderstudy.com

Institute for Learning in Retirement: Virginia Beach
www.ilrvb.org

Encore Learning: Arlington
www.EncoreLearning.net

Wren Association for Lifelong Learning: Williamsburg
www.wm.edu/CWA

Osher LLI at the University of Richmond: Richmond
www.spcs.richmond.edu/lifelong-learning/osher

Federal Trade Commission: Pass It On

Share What You Know. Stop Scams.

Chances are good that someone you know has been scammed. They may not talk about it, but the statistics do. The truth is that sharing what you know can help protect someone who you know from a scam.



FTC.Gov/PassItOn

Project Ideas:

- Provide scholarships or transportation for seniors over 90 to attend LLI courses
- Provide senior centers with activity books, word searches, crossword puzzles
- Donate to the GFWC Library Replenishment Fund for support from natural disasters
- Provide the community with information about the [FTC Pass It On](http://FTC.Gov/PassItOn) initiative
- Read to seniors or host book clubs in assisted living or skilled nursing facilities
- Create a library or donate to a library in a senior center or skilled nursing facility

For Youth:



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children from birth to age five.

- Become an affiliate: If you do not already have the program in your area, reach out to determine eligibility. This usually requires a funding commitment.
- Partner with a current affiliate: Assist with fundraising for your local program. Help to register kids for the program at schools, or at hospitals for newborns.

Imagination Library books are also available in braille and audio for children with disabilities, and are also free!



[Imagination Libraries in Virginia](http://www.ImaginationLibrary.com)

www.ImaginationLibrary.com



www.vahoby.org

Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar Virginia is an organization with a vision to motivate and empower individuals to make a positive difference within our global society through understanding and action based on effective and compassionate leadership.

Studies prove that the more books in or near the home, the more likely a child will learn and love to read. Little Free Library book exchanges are an excellent vehicle for areas without easy access to books.



LittleFreeLibrary.org

Project Ideas:

- Provide scholarships to high school students for continuing education
- Donate resources, dollars, or supplies to the HOBY Leadership program supplies
- Provide sponsorship funding to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program
- Ask schools if they charge overdue fines at the libraries, and pay those off
- Donate needed school supplies for kids of all ages, assist with "Stuff The Bus"
- Create a Little Free Library for your community: littlefreelibrary.org