



Introduction to ESO:



Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) is an honorary educational society open to all per-capita dues paying GFWC federated clubs. More than 70 years ago, the ESO program became a permanent part of the GFWC Education Community Service Program. Through ESO, clubwomen are given direction in planned reading for self-enrichment and personal growth. Over the years, many GFWC clubwomen have profited from this unique self-improvement program, seen as vital by the members it directly benefits. The purpose of ESO is to provide clubwomen with a structural reading program, which is educational and stimulates a desire for self-improvement. The following are the goals of the ESO:

- To encourage clubwomen's pursuit of higher education
- To create an additional means to unite women in volunteerism
- To develop a support network for women returning to school
- To improve current and develop new study skills
- To stimulate systematic home reading and study with minimum supervision
- To encourage the establishment of home libraries and greater use of public libraries
- To encourage the formation of reading/study/discussion groups.

The Motto:

The motto of Epsilon Sigma Omicron is "Enlighten Your Own Pathway," which was chosen by Mrs. Quincey A. Myers and translated from Greek at the Indiana University. ESO are the initial letters for the Greek phrase, "Epsilon ten sautou hoden" which translates literally into "Enlighten the pathway of yourself."

ESO Levels:

There are many opportunities for ESO members to work their way up through the ESO levels. Clubwomen move to a new ESO level by completing a set of reading list requirements. The reading list is divided into reading categories. To complete a category, a member must read and report on four (4) books from that category.

- Pledge: Complete enrollment application, pay \$1.50 fee, and start to fulfill the requirements
- Member: Complete four books from four different categories, for a total of 16 books
- Star Level: Complete four books from ten different categories, for a total of 40 books
- Torch Level: Complete four books from sixteen different categories, for a total of 64 books
- 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

Reading Categories:

- o American History
- o The Arts
- o Biography and Memoir
- o Business and Finance
- o Conservation and Ecology
- o Drama
- o Education
- o Fiction, Classic
- o Fiction, General
- o Fiction, Historical
- o Fiction, Mystery/Thriller
- o Fiction, Romance
- o Fiction, Science Fiction/Fantasy
- o Health and Medicine
- o Home and Garden
- o International Authors
- o Parenting and Families
- o Poetry
- o Reading to/with Children - Picture Books and Story Books
- o Reading to/with Children - Chapter Books and Books for Youth
- o Religion and Inspirational
- o Science
- o Social Science
- o Sports and Recreation
- o STEM/STEAM books for adults
- o STEM/STEAM books for children
- o Travel and Geography
- o Volunteerism
- o Women's Studies
- o World History
- o Authors from your State
- o Books About or Taking Place in your State

Reading is the main responsibility of an ESO member. Once books are completed, the member is required to complete a brief form, giving the title and author, and brief opinion of the book read. Submit the information to the ESO chair: ESO@gfwcvirginia.org

Feel free to join the GFWC Virginia Book Club every other month via Zoom for a book discussion on a selected title. Information will be published in the GFWC Virginia Clubwoman newsletter and in the yearbook.