

Are you a reader? ...of course, you are! Join GFWC's ESO reading program!

***Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO)* is:**

- An honorary educational society established by GFWC in 1928. Any GFWC member can participate. *The California Federation of Women's Clubs* chartered its ESO Chapter in 1954. The California chapter is known as the Upsilon Chapter.
- The program is designed to encourage members to read a broad and diverse array of books, encouraging a desire to self-improvement and expand areas of interest.
- A self-paced program giving recognition for reading.

How Does the Program Work?

- Members begin by submitting a pledge application to their club (or district) ESO chair. If your club (or district) does not currently have an ESO chair the Education and Library chair should sign the forms. If your club does not have an ESO group one can easily be organized.
- Read books and write brief reports (50 words or less) to track your reading as the topic categories are completed.
- Club and then district ESO chair collects and submits completed forms to CFWC ESO chair for participant recognition.
- CFWC will issue achievement level certificates to the ESO participants.
- Club ESO participants should log hours spent reading and writing ESO book reports. The club gets credit for the number of books read and time the ESO members spend on the ESO Program.

Are there ESO meetings?

This is decided by each participating club. Some clubs do schedule ESO meetings (by Zoom or in-person). Like a typical book club, this encourages members to share they are reading and recommend books to other members. Field trips may be arranged to bookstores, community library events and more. Local authors may be invited as guests or to larger events as guest speakers.

Where do I find information and forms?

Ask your club or district ESO chair for additional ESO information and/or forms and the ESO brochure.

Visit the ESO section of the CFWC website (www.cfwc.org) for instructions and reports (one category per page). You will also find GFWC's suggested reading list. Additional information can be found through the GFWC website member portal (www.gfwc.org).

What is the reward for participating?

- * Recognition for achievement at each level.
- * Attend CFWC/GFWC ESO sessions during convention to meet other members who enjoy reading.
- * Discover new authors, subjects, and interests.
- * Expand knowledge and participate in stimulating discussions

ESO Levels of Achievement

- **Pledge:** A Pledge has signed an enrollment application and has started to fulfill the reading requirements. Submit copy of pledge form to District/State Chair for tracking membership and achievements.
- **Member:** Read and report on four (4) books from four (4) different categories, for a total of 16 books. The member is then eligible to purchase the ESO pin and will receive a Member Level certificate and ID number for that achievement.
- **Star Level:** Read and report on four books from ten different categories, for a total of 40 books. The member will receive a Star level certificate and ID number for that achievement.
- **Torch Level:** Read and report on four books from 16 different categories, for a total of 64 books read. The member is eligible to purchase the ESO Torch pin guard and receive the Torch Level certificate.
- **Century Award:** A Century Award member has completed 100 books and can continue to achieve the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th century levels, and so on, receiving recognition for each century (+100 books) completed. *At this level, reports are no longer required, nor are category fulfillments. Read whatever you choose! A spreadsheet with author & title is sufficient. Some members log their hours here as well, and any other information deemed useful.*
- **Diamond Award:** A Diamond Award member has read 1,000 books and eligible to receive a Diamond Award certificate.

Note:

- Each level must contain books not previously reported in any level.
- Audio and Kindle books are permissible.
- Although categories may be repeated on the different levels, “branching out” is encouraged.