

## **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 program is designed to encourage members to read a broad and diverse array of books, encouraging a desire for self-improvement and expanded 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 does not currently have an ESO chair, an ESO group in your club can be organized easily).
- ❖ Read books and write brief reports (50 words) to track your reading as the topic categories are completed.
- ❖ Club/district ESO chair collects and submits forms to CFWC for participant recognition.
- ❖ CFWC will issue achievement level certificates to ESO participants at convention.
- ❖ Club ESO participants should log hours spent reading and writing ESO book reports. The club gets credit for the time 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.

### **Where do I find information and forms?**

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

Visit the ESO section of the CFWC website ([www.cfwc.org](http://www.cfwc.org)) for instructions and report forms (one category per page). You'll also find GFWC's suggested reading list. Additional info can be found through the GFWC website member portal ([www.gfwc.org](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> 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.*
- *Audio and Kindle books are permissible.*
- *Although categories may be repeated, “branching out” is encouraged.*