



JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM: ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

Carrie Zimmerman, E: Czim22@gmail.com



GFWC Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children is designed to encourage all Woman's, Junior Woman's, Juniette, and International Affiliate Clubs to make a difference in the life of a child by being an advocate. The definition of child advocacy is "support for children who are in a vulnerable position in society or in a vulnerable situation."

During the 2020-2022 Administration, our aim is to honor our roots and be a voice for children. The Program includes a special focus in two areas: (1) To advocate for art curriculums and outdoor activities at schools for all students, including those with disabilities, and to highlight the value of art and outdoor programs as therapy and enrichment for children with emotional, mental, and physical challenges, and (2) To advocate for education and training that helps parents and other caregivers be the best advocate possible for a child in emergency and other health situations.

CHALLENGE PROJECT

Undertake a service project that directly benefits children during GFWC Advocates for Children Week.

October 25 - October 31, 2020
October 24 - October 30, 2021

Affiliate Organizations

(Confirmed as of date of printing)

Depending on club intent, projects/programs from these GFWC Affiliate Organizations could be reported here as well:



Resource Organizations



Girl Scouts®



KidsHealth.org



OAK
OUTDOORS ALLIANCE FOR KIDS



National Park Foundation



RMHC®



Save the Children.

Get Inspired with "Grassroots" Projects

- Work with your city, county, or state to have the fourth week in October recognized as Advocates for Children Week.
- Advocate for art curriculums and outdoor activities for your local schools and/or states. Ask the PTA to partner with the club by encouraging parents to join the advocacy effort.
- If art funding is cut or eliminated, check if local schools qualify and have applied for funds under the Every Child Succeeds Act.
- Investigate grants, such as those available through the U.S. Department of Education, including the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants and the 21st Century Community Learning Center Funding.
- Engage in art therapy projects with children in hospitals, shelters, and other facilities.
- Create "worry rocks" with children who are attending school for the first time.
- Work with special needs children to create Vision Boards or Dream Boards using magazine cut outs.
- Support under-funded schools and after-school enrichment programs by collecting and donating supplies for all types of art programs, including music and theater.
- Provide volunteer support to community youth organizations that promote arts, outdoor activities, and/or other enrichment programs including civic engagement.
- Advocate for programs that directly benefit children at local and nearby state parks.
- Partner with a local school to build an outdoor classroom or school garden.
- Create a learning habitat for children at a local school or park.
- Advocate through your State's legislation for bills that benefit children's physical and mental health.
- Advocate for law enforcement training on mental health awareness for children.
- Research advocacy groups in your area that support children's physical and/or mental health.
- Learn about and promote Ecotherapy or Nature Therapy, which can help children with anxiety, depression, mental fatigue, eating disorders, feelings of isolation, and other emotional and mental ills.
- Help fourth-grade students secure their own Every Kid Outdoors pass through the Outdoor Alliance for Kids, which will provide them free access to national parks across the country.
- And many more provided in Club Manual.

(This list is a brief offering of project ideas. Please visit Club Manual for other grassroots projects and/or programs as well as those with Affiliate Organizations or Resources.)