GFWC
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GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
PENNSYLVANIA

Arts 2026-2028

"Color Outside the Lines"



Sara Ruppel

President

Arts and Culture Community Service Program

Diane Guadagna, Chairman and Photography Chairman
129 Leslie Drive, Brodheadsville, PA 18322 dguadagnagfwc@gmail.com 610-737- 4686

Marie Warren, Literature Chairman
421 Orchard West, Dallas, PA 18612 mna625@gmail.com 570-417-2157

District Chairmen

Northeastern
Paula Rittenhouse
Lunaontherun@gmail.com

Southeastern
Jane Prutzman
japrutz@gmail.com
Debbie Brumbach
Dbrum19553@yahoo.com

Northcentral
Cindy Troutman-Meyers
ctmeyers@ptd.com

Southcentral
Shirley Barnes
powmia@aol.com

Northwestern
Marianne Heck
Mheck1943@gmail.com

Southwestern
Phyllis Laporte
Falaporte13@gmail.com
Dot Hoffman
tolebrush@aol.com

ARTS CHAIRMAN RESPONSIBILITIES

GENERAL RULES FOR ALL 2026-2028 CONTESTS

- The General Rules should be reproduced for member and student contestants and given to school contacts along with rules, Entry Form(s) and *GFWC Creative Arts Waiver* (if applicable).
- Member contests are open to all per capita dues-paying members of GFWC Pennsylvania.
- Members and/or students may only submit entries to one club.
- Students must be sponsored by a per capita dues-paying club of GFWC Pennsylvania.
- A completed Member Entry Form must be attached to each photography entry. **Please do not glue!** Only use removable painter's tape.
- All Literature, Member Photography, Craft and Tablescape entries **MUST** have a completed, signed *GFWC Creative Arts Waiver* submitted with the entry **Digital entries only.**
- Entries must not have been previously entered in any GFWC club, district, county, state or international Festival of the Arts contest.
- Literature must be original and unpublished.
- Authors and photographers must be amateur status – earnings from writings or photography may not exceed $500 annually.
- Each contest entry will be judged by at least two (2) judges who are qualified in some aspects of the contest. A copy of the rules shall be supplied to each judge at least one week prior to the contest. Uncontested entries meeting all qualifications based on the rules will advance to the next level of competition.
- Judges may judge at only one level of competition. No clubwoman may judge at any level.
- At each level, disqualification is determined by the particular Chairman based on the rules. The Chairman's decision is final.
- Each entry must be completed in its entirety by the contestant.
- If for any reason a First-Place winner cannot advance to the next level of competition, notification to the Chairman must be made immediately. It is the responsibility of that level's Chairman to arrange for the Second-Place winner to advance.
- The Arts Department Chairman at each level of competition is responsible for assuring that the *GFWC Creative Arts Waivers*(member photography and all literature entries), and **two (2) blank Judging Sheets** are supplied to the next level Chairman within five (5) days following their respective competition. Please use appropriate waivers. Crafts and tablescape can use the Creative Arts Waiver (page. 33)
- A contestant may enter more than one category of competition but may only have one entry per category.
- Neither GFWC Pennsylvania nor its chairmen are responsible for loss or damage of any kind to items submitted for competition at any level.
- Entries will advance from Club to District to State to National levels (depending on the category) and will be released only at the conclusion of the last event.
- All GFWC Pennsylvania general rules are in compliance with those of GFWC.
- Completed Judging Sheets will be returned to the student or member after each contest level.

CONTEST DEADLINES

Deadline for all writing entries to be submitted to State no later than March 1, 2027

Deadline for all photography entries to be submitted to State no later than April 15, 2027

Please Note: Each district may have additional contests in addition to the GFWC Pennsylvania sponsored contests. Any questions regarding district contests should be directed to your District Arts Chairman.

County Festival of Arts

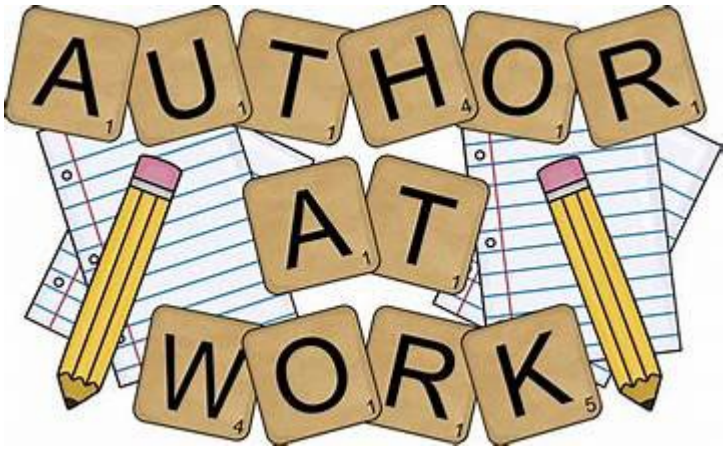
GFWC Pennsylvania policy:

A. Each federated club shall be entitled to submit one entry in each category to the District Festival of Arts.

B. Organized counties which hold a separate Festival of Arts shall be entitled to submit one entry in each category to the District Festival of Arts.

C. A club whose entry is selected as the County entry shall not be entitled to submit an additional entry and such entry shall be considered to be a co-entry from the federated club and county.

Note: A club and/or club member does not have to enter the county contest. The entry will advance from the club to the district.



WRITING CONTESTS

GFWC MEMBER CONTESTS

Authors must be dues-paying members of an active per capita club.

Entries must be:

- Typed, double-spaced, and one-inch minimum margins on the top, bottom, and both sides.
- Printed on white 8.5 x 11-inch paper, one side only.
- If emailed, use Microsoft Word files only.
- Entries must be written during the contest year (January 1-December 31).

Entries must include the following information on the top right-hand corner of each page:

- Author's name, email address, mailing address, and phone number
- Name of author's GFWC club and State Federation
- Category
- Title of work
- Page number

Authors must be amateurs. Earnings from writing may not exceed $500 annually. Entries may not have been published prior to the competition and must be original works by the author. A completed, signed GFWC Creative Arts Waiver must be included with each submission. Short stories are limited to 2,000 words. Word count must be included at the end of the story. Poetry entries can be any style with a minimum length of eight lines and a maximum of 50 lines. Entries are limited to one per member per category.

YOUTH WRITING CONTESTS ENTRY GUIDELINE

Requirements:

- Typed, double-spaced, one-inch minimum margins on the top, bottom, and both sides.
- Printed on white 8.5 x 11-inch paper, one side only.
- If emailed, use Microsoft Word files only.
- Entries must be written during the contest year (January 1-December 31).
- Entries must include the following information on the top, right-hand corner of each page:
    - Author's name, email address, mailing address, and phone number
    - Name of the GFWC club and State Federation submitting the author's work
    - Category
    - Title of work
    - Page number
    - Grade Level Category
        - Category 1: Grades K, 1, and 2
        - Category 2: Grades 3, 4, and 5
        - Category 3: Grades 6, 7, and 8
        - Category 4: Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

Authors must be amateurs. Earnings from writing may not exceed $500 annually. Entries may not have been published prior to the competition and must be the author's original work. A completed, signed GFWC Creative Arts Waiver must be included with each submission. Entries are limited to one per person per category. Short stories are limited to 2,000 words. Word count must be indicated at the end of the story. Poetry entries can be any style with a minimum length of eight lines and a maximum of 50 lines.
Deadline for ALL entries is March 1, 2027 to Marie Warren, mna625@gmail.com

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

TELL YOUR STORY WITH PHOTOGRAPHS

The GFWC Photography Contests encourage members' artistic expression and visual storytelling while recognizing originality, visual impact, and technical skill in photography. You don't need an expensive camera to take great pictures. Today's cell phones provide a way to take creative photographs that are contest worthy. GFWC offers four opportunities to participate in the Photography Contests.

THE WORLD IN PICTURES CONTEST

These photographs showcase the people, places, and things at home and around the world that impact our lives in a meaningful way, as expressed in these three categories:

• **Our Living World**— Highlight the people, animals, and plants that make our world a beautiful place to live. These photos can showcase a close-up view, such as the stamen of a flower, to a wide vista, like the Serengeti's animals from a helicopter.

• **Places Here and There**— Capture architecture or natural beauty in the air (clouds, moon, stars, etc.), land (mountains, deserts, meadows, etc.), and water (oceans, rivers, waterfalls, etc.) locally or around the world.

• **State Pride** Showcase images that make you proud of your state! Examples are Rocky Mountains, university football game, saguaro cactus, pecan pie, the 16th U.S. President, etc. These photographs must be taken in the state submitting them —

GFWC LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT CONTEST

These photographs capture the special moments in the lives of GFWC members as they actively meet, plan, advocate, volunteer, or celebrate in groups or one-on-one. **Photos should be of volunteers in motion, actively working.** Try focusing on one subject rather than entire groups. Preference in judging will be given to photos that show members actively doing something not simply posing.

RULES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

• Photographs must be the original work of the member submitting the photograph.

• All contest photographers must be dues paying members of an active GFWC club.

• Photographs submitted for the first year of the administration must be taken between January 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026. Photographs submitted for the second year of the administration must be taken between January 1, 2027 and December 31, 2027.

• Contestants must be considered an amateur photographer. (Pursuing photography for pleasure versus for financial benefits.) • Photographs may be vertical/portrait or horizontal/landscape.

• Photographs must be the original work of the member submitting the photo.

• **Digital submissions are highly recommended**. **If club member advances to national level only digital format will be accepted.**

• If print photographs are submitted, they must be:

- An 8 X 10-inch high-resolution print.
- Mounted on a rigid 8 X 10-inch board and overall thickness may not exceed 3/8 inch. No mattes, frames, or hangers are allowed.

• Qualified judges will look at the overall creativity of the subject while recognizing originality, visual impact, and quality of the photograph and technical skills in photography.

• Photographs may be taken using film or digital cameras and may be color or black and white.

• Photographs will **NOT** be returned.

• Print photographs must have a label affixed to its back with the following information:

• Contest name: The World in Pictures with category or GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit

• Photographer's Name, Email Address, Mailing Address, and Phone Number • Name and State of the sponsoring club

• Title and brief caption giving location, date, and other pertinent info about the photograph • Arrow indicating top of the photograph

• Creative Arts Waiver Form for each submission is found at the end of this segment of the Club Manual and in the Member Portal under Resources in the Awards and Contests section.

• **Digital prints must include the same information within the email to which the digital print is attached**.

Districts must send winning entries by: April 1, 2027

Diane Guadagna, 129 Leslie Drive, Brodheadsville, PA 18322 **dguadagnagfwc@gmail.com**

2026-2028 GFWC PENNSYLVANIA

Arts Scholarship

1. Establish an Arts Scholarship for graduating high school seniors.

2. Awarded annually at the District Spring Meeting/ Arts Day.

3. One Scholarship per district.

4. Funds will be raised at the fall district meetings, Summer Leadership Conference or by corporate sponsorship.

5. The fund shall be titled, "Silver for Scholarships."

6. All money raised will be divided equally among the six districts.

7. District Arts Chairmen will select a committee of at least two to judge the applications.

8. **Application deadline will be February 1st of each year.**

9. If there are no applicants in a district, the funds will remain in the scholarship fund.

10. This scholarship is awarded based on ambition/educational goals, artistic ability, leadership, and community involvement.

11. Sponsoring an Arts Scholarship within our six Districts provides our organization with an opportunity to promote not only our brand, but our support for our communities statewide, our commitment to the Arts, and students as well.

Member Photography
Entry Form – Part 1

A contestant may enter more than one category of competition, but may only have one entry per category.
Note: Both parts of this form are required for each entry.
Part 1 stays attached to the entry at all levels.
Part 2 is sent to the Arts Chairman at the next level of competition.

World in Pictures: Check one per entry Title of Photo _____

Our Living World ____

Places Here and There ____

State Pride ____

GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit ____

Name of Contestant _____

Address _____

_____

Phone Number _____ email _____

Sponsoring Club _____ State _____

Club Arts Chairman _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Member Photography
Entry Form – Part 2

A contestant may enter more than one category of competition but may only have one entry per category.

World in Pictures: Check one per entry Title of Photo _____

Our Living World ____

Places Here and There ____

State Pride ____

GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit ____

Name of Contestant _____

Address _____

_____

Phone Number _____ email _____

Sponsoring Club _____ State _____

Club Arts Chairman _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Member Photography
Judging Form

Chairman Checklist to be completed before judging; photos not including ALL of the following must be disqualified.

____ Photo is 8"x10"
____ Photo is mounted on mount board not to exceed 3/8"
____ Photo is not matted or framed
____ Photo must have a label affixed to its back with the following:
- Contest name and category
- Photographer's name, email address, mailing address, phone number
- Name and State of sponsoring Club
- Title and brief caption giving location, date, and other notes about the photo
- Arrow indicating top of photo

____ A properly completed Entry Form Part 1 must be attached to the back of the photo
____ Each photo must have a signed *GFWC Creative Arts Waiver* attached to the back of the photo

Check one per entry:

World in Pictures:

Our Living World ____
Places Here and There ____
State Pride ____

GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit ____

Entry # _____ Title of Photo_____

Last name of entrant _____

	Points
Originality/Creativity	1 - 25 Points
Balance/Composition	1 - 25 Points
Impact	1 - 50 Points
Total Points (Maximum 100)	

Comments:_____

Judge's Signature _____

Member Short Story and Poetry Contest
Entry Form – Part 1

A member may enter more than one category of competition, but may only have one entry per category.

Check one:

Short Story _____ Title _____

Poetry _____ Title _____

Name of Contestant _____

Address _____

_____

Phone Number _____ email _____

Sponsoring Club _____ State _____

Club Arts Chairman _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

County _____ District _____

Member Short Story and Poetry Contest
Entry Form – Part 2

A member may enter more than one category of competition, but may only have one entry per category.

Check one:

Short Story _____ Title _____

Poetry _____ Title _____

Name of Contestant _____

Address _____

_____

Phone Number _____ email _____

Sponsoring Club _____ State _____

Club Arts Chairman _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Note: Both parts of this form are required for each entry. Part 1 stays attached to the entry at all levels. Part 2 is sent to the Arts Chairman at the next level of competition

Member Poetry
Judging form

Chairman Checklist to be completed before judging; Poems not including ALL of the following must be disqualified.

____ Poem must be typewritten, double-spaced, with minimum margins of 1" on all four sides, one side only, on 8 1/2" x 11" paper.
____ Three (3) copies must be submitted with Entry Form and waiver.
____ Minimum 8 lines and maximum 50 lines.
____ Each submission must have a signed *GFWC Creative Arts Waiver* attached.
____ Entries must have the following in the top right-hand corner of each page:
- author's name
- e-mail address
- mailing address
- telephone number
- name of author's GFWC club and State Federation
- category
- title of work

____ A properly completed Entry Form Part 1 must be attached to the poem.

Title of Poem _____

Poetry Contest Rules

- Entries of poems can be any style, with a minimum length of eight (8) lines and a maximum of fifty (50) lines.

Entry # _____ Last name of entrant_____

Award 1-10 points in each area	Points
Theme Development	_____
Choice of Words/Phrases	_____
Rhyme/Rhythmic Flow	_____
Originality of Thoughts	_____
Impact of Poem	_____
Total Points (Maximum 50)	_____

Comments:

Judge's Signature _____

Member Short Story
Judging Form

Chairman Checklist to be completed before judging; Short stories not including **ALL** of the following must be disqualified.

____ Short story must be typewritten, double-spaced, with minimum margins of 1" on all four sides, one side only, on 8 1/2" x 11" paper.
____ Maximum 2,000 words.
____ Three (3) copies must be submitted with Entry Form and waiver.
____ Each submission must have a signed *GFWC Creative Arts Waiver* attached.
____ Entries must have the following in the top right-hand corner of each page:
- author's name
- e-mail address
- mailing address
- telephone number
- name of author's GFWC club and State Federation
- category
- title of work

____ A properly completed Entry Form Part 1 must be attached to the short story.

Title of Story _____

Entry # _____ Last name of entrant_____

Rules: Any Subject – 2000 Words

Award 1-10 points in each area	**Points**
Beginning: Does the writer engage the reader's attention immediately? Are tone, setting and character established quickly?	_____
Characterization: Are characters believable, well rounded? Actions and interactions consistent and well-motivated?	_____
Plot: Does progression seem inevitable without being too predictable? Is the story interesting and compelling to read?	_____
Conflict: Does protagonist have a problem serious enough for the reader to care about? Is it solved satisfactorily?	_____
Style: Is writing fresh and free of clichés? Does it reveal the writer's own vision and attitude clearly? Are viewpoint changes and pacing handled smoothly?	_____
Mechanics: Is grammar and punctuation, correct? Spelling accurate? Is the manuscript professionally prepared? Are historical details consistent, and correct?	_____
Total Points (Maximum 60)	_____

Comments:

Judge's Signature _____

Student Short Story and Poetry Contest

Entry Form – Part 1

A contestant may enter more than one category of competition but may only have one entry per category.

Check one: Category 1: Grades K, 1 and 2 _____ Category 3: Grades 6, 7 and 8 _____
Category 2: Grades 3, 4 and 5 _____ Category 4: Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 _____

Check one: Short Story _____ Title _____
Poetry _____ Title _____

Name of Contestant _____

Address _____

_____

School Contact _____ email _____ Phone _____

School _____ Grade _____

Sponsoring Club _____ State _____

Club Arts Chairman _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Student Short Story and Poetry Contest

Entry Form – Part 2

Check one: Category 1: Grades K, 1 and 2 _____ Category 3: Grades 6, 7 and 8 _____
Category 2: Grades 3, 4 and 5 _____ Category 4: Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 _____

Check one: Short Story _____ Title _____
Poetry _____ Title _____

Name of Contestant _____

Address _____

_____

School Contact _____ email _____ Phone

School _____ Grade _____

Sponsoring Club _____ State _____

Club Arts Chairman _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Note: Both parts of this form are required for each entry. Part 1 stays attached to the entry at all levels. Part 2 is sent to the Arts Chairman at the next level of competition

Student Short Story

Judging Form

Chairman Checklist to be completed before judging; Short stories not including **ALL** of the following must be disqualified.

____ Short story must be typewritten, double-spaced, with minimum margins of 1" on all four sides, one side only, on 8 1/2" x 11" paper.
____ Maximum 2,000 words.
____ Three (3) copies must be submitted with Entry Form and waiver.
____ Each submission must have a signed *GFWC Creative Arts Waiver* (page 34) attached.
____ Entries must have the following in the top right-hand corner of each page:

- author's name
- e-mail address
- mailing address
- telephone number
- name of author's sponsoring GFWC club and State Federation
- category
- title of work

____ A properly completed Entry Form Part 1 must be attached to the short story.

Title of Story _____

Rules: Any Subject – 2000 Words

Entry # _____ Last name of Entrant_____

Check category: _____ Category 1: Grades K - 2 _____ Category 3: Grades 6 – 8
_____ Category 2: Grades 3 – 5 _____ Category 4: Grades 9 – 12

Award 1-10 points in each area	**Points**
Originality of thoughts/phrases	_____
Content/Originality	_____
Theme/Plot Development	_____
Grammar/Punctuation/Spelling	_____
Total Points (Maximum 40)	_____

Comments:

Judge's Signature _____

The “Six Traits of Writing” will be used in the judging of the Student Writing Contest entries in categories 1,2,3, and 4.

The Six Traits

1. **Ideas & Content**
    - Measures the clarity, focus, and relevance of the main idea and supporting details.
    - Exemplary: Exceptionally clear, focused, engaging with strong, relevant details.
    - Developing: Main idea may be unclear; details are general or off-topic.

2. **Organization**
    - Evaluates the structure, sequence, and transitions between ideas.
    - Strong: Logical, creative structure with engaging intro and conclusion.
    - Weak: Disorganized, missing or weak intro/conclusion.
3. **Voice**
    - Assesses the writer’s personality, tone, and connection to the audience.
    - Strong: Expressive, sincere, and appropriate to purpose.
    - Weak: Flat, mechanical, or no sense of the writer.
4. **Word Choice**
    - Looks at precision, variety, and effectiveness of vocabulary.
    - Strong: Vivid, varied, and purposeful word choice.
    - Weak: Monotonous, repetitive, or inappropriate.
5. **Sentence Fluency**
    - Measures rhythm, flow, and variety in sentence structure.
    - Strong: Smooth, varied sentences with good transitions.
    - Weak: Choppy, repetitive, or awkward.
6. **Conventions**
    - Reviews spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting.
    - Strong: Exceptional control with few or no errors.
    - Weak: Frequent errors that distract the reader

Student Poetry
Judging Form

Chairman Checklist to be completed before judging; Poems not including **ALL** of the following must be disqualified.

____ Poem must be typewritten, double-spaced, with minimum margins of 1" on all four sides, one side only, on 8 1/2" x 11" paper.
____ Minimum 8 lines and maximum 50 lines.
____ Three (3) copies must be submitted with Entry Form and waiver.
____ Each submission must have a signed *GFWC Creative Arts Waiver* (page 34) attached.
____ Entries must have the following in the top right-hand corner of each page:

- author's name
- e-mail address
- mailing address
- telephone number
- name of author's sponsoring GFWC club and State Federation
- category
- title of work

____ A properly completed Entry Form Part 1 must be attached to the poem.

Title of Poem _____

Poetry Contest Rules - Entries of poems can be any style, with a minimum length of eight (8) lines and a maximum of fifty (50) lines.

Check One:

_____ Category 1: Grades K – 2
_____ Category 2: Grades 3 – 5
_____ Category 3: Grades 6 – 8
_____ Category 4: Grades 9 -12

Entry # _____
Last name of entrant_____

Award 1-10 points in each area	Points
Theme Development	_____
Choice of Words/Phrases	_____
Rhyme/Rhythmic Flow	_____
Originality of Thoughts	_____
Impact of Poem	_____
Total Points (Maximum 50)	_____

Comments:

Judge's Signature _____

GFWC
est. 1890
GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
PENNSYLVANIA

High School Senior Arts Scholarship Application

Name_____**Date of Birth:**_____

Address:_____

Telephone #_____**E-mail**_____

Parents/Guardians:_____

School Attending: _____

Sponsoring Club: _____

Please respond to the following:

1. List any high school organizations in which you have been involved, with dates of involvement include any offices or positions of responsibility you have held in these organizations.

2. Do you have any special talents and how have you pursued them? (i.e., art, dance, music drama, academic contests, sports)

3. Have you held a paying job while in high school? If so, how long have you been employed and how many hours a week do you work?

Job Description	Company	Hours per week	Dates of Employment

4. Tell us about your family and/or volunteer experiences.

Volunteer Experiences	Place	Hours	Date(s) of experience

5. To what college or school have you applied and why? Have you been accepted?

School	Why	Accepted?

6. Senior Scholarship Essay - Please include a one-page essay to help us to get to know you. This is your chance to share information that was not addressed in the application. Include information regarding what aspect of the Arts you wish to pursue and plans and ambitions for your future and why you feel that you deserve this scholarship.

The scholarship applicant will be considered with the following criteria: Leadership, Ambition/Education Goals, Artistic Ability, and Community Involvement. Applications must be received no later than *February 1st*.

Mail or email completed applications to:
Diane Guadagna, 129 Leslie Drive, Broadheadsville, PA 18322
dguadagnagfwc@gmail.com

Scholarship will be announced at GFWC Pennsylvania District Spring Meeting/Arts Day.

!Crafts Are Back in Town!

Hooray for all our "crafty" members. Crafting is once again being included in the 2026-2028 Arts & Culture contest. However, the judging process will be a bit different. The actual tangible item will only be judged at the club level. The remainder of judging will be done via video and photography.
The judging guidelines will remain the same as outlined on page 2. The variance from past years will occur at the district and state levels.
Once the craft items have been judged at club level the 1st place winners will be videoed and photographed and those videos and photos will be emailed to the district art directors. The video should be shot in portrait view, and the entire item must be filmed. Please take a 360 video so all sides of craft are shown. Each video should not last longer than 2 minutes max. The club member who made the item should be in the video and briefly describe her creation.

You may zoom in and out on parts of craft that should be highlighted. Please label the videos with the name of the club, the craft that is being highlighted and the name of the member who created the winning craft.
The district art directors will then have each item judged via video by 2 professionals based on the judging sheets supplied within the Arts Booklet . The 1st place winners of the district will then be sent to the State Art Chairman, where the same judging process will be followed.

Winners will be spotlighted at the Spring Festival of Arts 2027. District Art Directors may also want to display the winner's actual item at their respective Spring Art Festivals.

A special thank you to board members that offered ideas for crafts, three of which are highlighted this year.



Member Crafts

GFWC Pennsylvania Contest

General Rules (page 3) must be followed in addition to the following rules

Crafts will be judged on the Club, District and State level only, they will not move to national.

Entries must not have been previously entered in a federated Festival of the Arts contest

Craft must be made during the contest year: January 1 – December 31, 2026

A member may enter more than one category of competition but may only have one entry per category.

A completed Member Craft Entry Form Part 2 must accompany each entry and two (blank) Judging Sheets to be submitted to the Chairman at each level, Entry Form Part 1 must be attached.

Entries must be submitted to State no later than April 1, 2027



Mason Jar Lantern

Create a Mason Jar Lantern
Member choice of materials to create lantern
Battery powered or Led light only open flames not permitted



Pebble Art

Create a picture or landscape made from stones, gems, glass, etc.
Member choice of base used, mix of materials and size of project.



Recycled Crayon Art

Create a picture by recycling old crayons.
Member choice for size of item



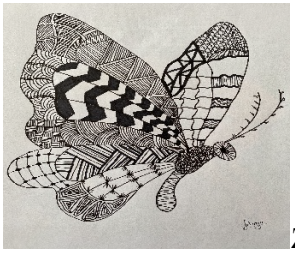
Recycle Old Clothing

Design and sew a handbag from an item or items of old clothing . Size of item and materials used are at the discretion of club member.



Granny Square Sweater

Design and crochet/knit a sweater using granny squares. The item can be a pullover or a cardigan. Color and size is at the discretion of the club member.



Zentangle

The Zentangle Method is an easy-to-learn, relaxing, and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. We call these patterns, tangles. You create tangles with combinations of dots, lines, simple curves, S-curves and orbs. These simple shapes are the "Elemental Strokes" in all Zentangle art. These patterns are drawn on small pieces of paper called "tiles." We call them tiles because you can assemble them into mosaics.

Choice of Zentangle art choice of club member.

Member Crafts
Entry Form – Part 1

A member may enter more than one category of competition but may only have one entry per category

Check one per entry:

Mason Jar Lantern _____ Recycle Old Clothing _____

Pebble Art _____ Granny Square Sweater _____

Recycle Crayon Art _____ Zentangle _____

Name of Contestant _____

Address _____

_____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

Sponsoring Club _____

Club Arts Chairman _____ Phone _____

County _____ E-mail _____

District _____

Member Crafts
Entry Form – Part 2

A member may enter more than one category of competition but may only have one entry per category

Check one per entry:

Mason Jar Lantern _____ Recycle Old Clothing _____

Pebble Art _____ Granny Square Sweater _____

Recycle Crayon Art _____ Zentangle _____

Name of Contestant _____

Address _____

_____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

Member Crafts

Judging Form

Check one per entry:

Mason Jar Lantern _____

Granny Square Sweater _____

Recycle Crayon Art _____

Zentangle _____

Recycle Old Clothing _____

Pebble Art _____

Entry #_____

Last name of entrant_____

Award 1-20 points in each area	Points
Workmanship	_____
Eye appeal	_____
Complexity	_____
Originality	_____
Creativity	_____
TOTAL POINTS – maximum 100	_____

Comments:

Judge's signature_____

TABLE SCAPE DESIGN

This year, every club is encouraged to participate in a statewide Art Project. No artistic ability is necessary.

Each club should be divided into random groups, with the number of groups based on club size. Each group will **design a table inspired by a favorite childhood storybook**. The design should tell a story.

Use your imagination. Items do not need to come from one source; teams may use antiques, dollar store items, things from home, or other creative materials. Once each team has finalized its design and gathered all components, judging should be completed by an outside source, such as a florist, artist, wedding planner or other professional.

The winning table from each club should be photographed and recorded on video, along with a description of the components used and how the "table top story" was developed.

The video will advance to the district level, where the District Art Director will have all first-place club entries judged. The district winner will then advance to the state level and be judged in the same manner. The state winner will be asked to bring the table components to the convention in May 2027, where the design will be proudly displayed at the Festival of the Arts. That evening, President Sara Ruppel, the executive board, and members of the winning club will dine at the table. If there are not enough place settings for the entire group, accommodations will be made. After dinner, the centerpiece from the winning design will be auctioned in a raffle, with proceeds benefiting Pennies for the Arts.

Please also take photographs of all club-level tablescapes. These photos will be included on a storyboard displayed at the Festival of the Arts convention 2027, so every team can be recognized for its design.

The table design will be judged as a complete presentation. Required components are listed below:

Place settings: minimum of 2 and maximum of 8.

Table linens: tablecloth, table topper, table runner, and napkins.
You may use one or a mixture of several items, the choice depends on your design

Dishes: The quantity, size, and variety should suit your design and may include a full service or part of a full service.

Napkin rings or folded napkins: team's choice.

Cutlery: based on the team's design.

Lighting: LED or battery-operated only; no open flames.

Chair covers: optional

Centerpiece: team's choice; the winning team will donate the centerpiece to be auctioned, proceeds to benefit Pennies for the Arts.

Centerpiece size restrictions: Max height 40" ; Max circumference at base 20"

Entries must be submitted to State no later than April 1, 2027

TABLE SCAPE DESIGN

Judging Sheet

Judging Criteria (100 points total)

Creativity & Originality: 30 pts

Comments:

Theme Execution: 25 pts

Comments:

Craftsmanship & Neatness: 15 pts

Comments:

Use of Color & Balance: 15 pts

Comments:

Overall Impact: 15 pts_

Comments:

Total Overall Points:_____

Judge's Signature _____

Video Submission Guidelines

To ensure all contest entries are judged fairly and consistently, please follow the instructions below when recording and submitting your videos.

Craft Entry Videos

Video Requirements

- Record a **360-degree video** of the craft so that all sides of the item are clearly visible.
- Videos should be **no longer than 2 minutes**.
- The **club member who created the craft must appear in the video**.
- The creator should briefly explain:
    - What the craft is
    - Any special techniques or materials used
    - Any unique details or features the judges should notice

Filming Tips

- Move slowly around the craft to capture all angles.
- Zoom in on important details, textures, embellishments, or craftsmanship that should be highlighted.
- Make sure the item is well-lit and in focus throughout the video.

Video Labeling

Please label each video using the following format:

Club Name – Craft Category/Title – Member Name

Example:
Sunshine Club – Handmade Quilt – Jane Smith

Tablescape Entry Videos

Photo Requirement

- Take at least one clear photograph of the winning tablescape from the club.

Video Requirements

- Record a video showcasing the entire tablescape from multiple angles.
- Include a brief explanation of:
    - The theme or concept of the tablescape
    - The materials, decorations, and components used
    - How the "tabletop story" was developed and brought to life

Filming Tips

- Begin with a full view of the entire table.
- Slowly move around the table to show details, place settings, centerpieces, and decorative elements.
- Zoom in on special features that help tell the story or demonstrate creativity.

Video Labeling

Please label each video using the following format:

Club Name – Tablescape Theme – Presenter Name

Example:
Sunshine Club – Garden Party – Jane Smith

Following these guidelines will help ensure that all entries are presented clearly and can be evaluated accurately by the judges.

Recording and Submitting Your Video

Recording Your Video on a Phone

Before You Start

- Clean your camera lens for the clearest picture.
- Record in a well-lit area with minimal background noise.
- Place the craft or tablescape on a stable surface.
- Hold your phone **vertically (portrait orientation)** while recording.
- Make sure the entire item is visible before you begin recording.

While Recording

- Move slowly and steadily around the item.
- Avoid quick movements that can make the video blurry.
- Speak clearly and loudly enough to be heard.
- If possible, have someone else record while the creator describes the project.
- Review the video before submitting to make sure it is clear and complete.

Naming Your Video File

Before sending your video, rename the file using the following format:

Club Name – Entry Name – Member Name

Examples:

- Sunshine Club – Handmade Quilt – Jane Smith.mp4
- Sunshine Club – Garden Party Tablescape – Jane Smith.mp4

Sending Your Video by Email

Option 1: Attach the Video Directly

1. Open your email application.
2. Create a new email.
3. Enter the contest submission email address.
4. Click the **Attach File** or **Paperclip** icon.
5. Select the video from your phone.
6. Include your name, club name, and entry title in the email.
7. Send the email.

Option 2: If the Video File Is Too Large

Many email systems limit attachments to 20–25 MB. If your video is too large:

iPhone

1. Open the Photos app.
2. Select the video.
3. Tap **Share**.
4. Choose **Mail**.
5. When prompted, select a smaller video size if needed.
6. Send the email.

iPhone or Android (Recommended)

1. Upload the video to Google Drive, Dropbox, OneDrive, or iCloud.
2. Create a sharing link.
3. Paste the link into your email.
4. Make sure the sharing settings allow others to view the video.

Email Subject Line

Use the following format:

Contest Submission – Club Name – Entry Name

Example:

Contest Submission – Sunshine Club – Handmade Quilt

Final Checklist Before Sending

✓ Video is 2 minutes or less
✓ Creator appears in the video (craft entries)
✓ All sides of the project are shown
✓ Audio is clear and understandable
✓ Video file is properly named
✓ Photo included for tablescape entries
✓ Email subject line is complete
✓ Video or video link is attached

This checklist can significantly reduce submission issues and make judging much easier.

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CREATIVE ARTS WAIVER
STUDENT WRITING CONTEST
2026-2028 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

With my signature I declare that:

☐ I have created the submitted work, entitled_____ and I own the full copyright. The work has not been published before.

☐ With my written work, including pictures, tables, or additional media, I do not violate or infringe on the copyright of any other person or entity. My writing was not generated by any Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.

☐ I grant the General Federation of Women's Clubs a royalty-free perpetual license to use, reproduce, post, display, create derivative works, sell, license, or sublicense the work in any media now known or later invented, without limitation, for commercial or non-commercial purposes.

This agreement shall become effective and binding on the date of formal acceptance of the work for publication by the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The writing submitted is for the following contest (please check only one):

☐ **STUDENT SHORT STORY** ☐ **STUDENT POETRY**

Student Grade Classification (please check only one):

☐ **CATEGORY 1: GRADES K-2** ☐ **CATEGORY 3: GRADES 6-8**

☐ **CATEGORY 2: GRADES 3-5** ☐ **CATEGORY 4: GRADES 9-12**

Full Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	
Name of Club		
State/DC Federation		

_____ _____

Signature Date

_____ _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if student is under 18 years of age) Date

Writing Contest submissions are accepted digitally ONLY. Each entry must include a completed, signed GFWC Creative Arts Waiver Student Writing Contest form. Clubs/Members must send entries to their respective State/District of Columbia Federation for state-level judging by the state submission deadline. Please contact your State/DC leadership for your individual deadline.

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CREATIVE ARTS WAIVER
PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST
2026-2028 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

With my signature I declare that:

☐ I have created the submitted work, entitled_____ and I own the full copyright. The work has not been published before.

☐ In my photograph, I do not violate or infringe on the copyright of any other person or entity. No Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated photo has been used. Photograph is the result of my work, not generated by AI. Only permitted AI editing tools (e.g. noise reducing, sharpening, dodging and burning, color adjusting, etc.) have been used. No AI tools have been used to add new content or significantly alter the original photograph.

☐ I grant the General Federation of Women's Clubs a royalty-free perpetual license to use, reproduce, post, display, create derivative works, sell, license, or sublicense the work in any media now known or later invented, without limitation, for commercial or non-commercial purposes.

This agreement shall become effective and binding on the date of formal acceptance of the work for publication by the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The photograph submitted is for the following contest (please check only one):

THE WORLD IN PICTURES: ☐ Our Living World ☐ Places Here and There ☐ State Pride

☐ **GFWC LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT**

Full Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	
Name of Club		
State/DC Federation		
Title and brief caption giving location, date taken, and other pertinent information about the photograph:		

Signature _____ Date _____

Photography Contest submissions are accepted digitally ONLY. Each entry must include a completed, signed Creative Arts Waiver Photography Contest form. Clubs/Members must send entries to their respective State/District of Columbia Federation for state-level judging by the state submission deadline. Please contact your State/DC leadership for your individual deadline.

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CREATIVE ARTS WAIVER
MEMBER WRITING CONTEST
2026-2028 GFWC ADMINISTRATION

With my signature I declare that:

☐ I have created the submitted work, entitled_____ and I own the full copyright. The work has not been published before.

☐ With my written work, including pictures, tables, or additional media, I do not violate or infringe on the copyright of any other person or entity. My writing was not generated by any Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.

☐ I grant the General Federation of Women's Clubs a royalty-free perpetual license to use, reproduce, post, display, create derivative works, sell, license, or sublicense the work in any media now known or later invented, without limitation, for commercial or non-commercial purposes.

This agreement shall become effective and binding on the date of formal acceptance of the work for publication by the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The work submitted is for the following contest (please check only one):

☐ Member Short Story ☐ Member Poetry

Full Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	
Name of Club		
State/DC Federation		

_____ _____

Signature Date

Writing Contest submissions are accepted digitally ONLY. Each entry must include a completed, signed Creative Arts Waiver Member Writing Contest form. Clubs/Members must send entries to their respective State/District of Columbia Federation for state-level judging by the state submission deadline. Please contact your State/DC leadership for your individual deadline.

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Pennies for the Arts

District and State monetary awards for student contests are funded from your club and individual donations.

Please consider including in your club's annual budget, any amount is accepted Certificates are presented to clubs contributing $60 or more per year.

Deadline for recognition at convention is April 1st

Individuals and businesses may donate as well. Certificates will be presented at convention for all donations.

All sponsors will be recognized in our Convention Program

rts Sponsor

NAME:_____

CLUB:_____

ADDRESS:_____

_____

EMAIL:_ _____

SPONSOR LEVEL

EMERALD	$10
SAPPHIRE	$25
TEAL	$60
AMETHYST	$__

Checks made payable to:

GFWC Pennsylvania

Mail form to :

GFWC Pennsylvania

1301 Allegheny Street, Suite119

Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

2026-2028 UNITY PROJECT

THE OCTOPUS CHALLENGE



STRETCH YOUR REACH

GFWC encourages clubs, State/District of Columbia Federations to participate in a challenge encompassing all areas of the Arts & Culture service project area. The Octopus Challenge invites clubs and federations to stretch their reach throughout all areas of Arts and Culture by **completing 2 projects in each of these 4 areas:**

1. **ART**
2. **MUSIC**
3. **DANCE/THEATER**
4. **CULTURE**

But our Octopus isn't finished yet! For ambitious federations looking to expand their reach a little further, there is a bonus challenge. After all, an octopus may only have 8 arms, but we know she can grow another when needed. **For bonus credit and special recognition, complete 2 additional projects celebrating each of these special areas:**

- Affiliate Organizations
- Lesser-known cultural traditions such as Lei Day, Diwali, Dia de Los Muertos, Juneteenth, and more.

By the end of this administration, those who have completed this Challenge will have left a legacy of service to their communities as far-reaching and embracing as an octopus's arms! Let your ideas flow, make waves of creativity and inspiration, and don't forget to brand your artistic endeavors with your club's name, contact information (where appropriate), and the GFWC Emblem.

The **Octopus Challenge Award Certificate** will be given to any State/District of Columbia Federation, or club that completes the project. Special Recognition will be given to those who have also completed the Bonus projects. Recognition for this Challenge will be given at the Region Banquets during the GFWC Annual Convention in 2028. Find the form for this challenge at the end of this section and in the Member Portal Digital Library.

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2026-2028 ARTS & CULTURE UNITY PROJECT
THE OCTOPUS CHALLENGE

Clubs and State/District of Columbia Federations are encouraged to dive into an exciting and creative initiative encompassing all areas of the Arts & Culture Service Program. This challenge invites participants to stretch their reach – much like an octopus – by completing two projects in each of four areas: Art, Music, Dance/Theater, and Culture. Together, these eight projects form the foundation of the challenge and promote creativity, expression, and cultural appreciation.

But we're not finished yet! For ambitious groups, a bonus challenge is available. After all, while an octopus may only have eight arms, we know she can grow another when needed. For bonus credit and special recognition, complete two additional projects in each of these areas: supporting Affiliate Organizations and cultural traditions from other areas of the world such as, such as Lei Day, Diwali, Día de Los Muertos, and more. By the end of this administration, participants will have created a legacy of service as wide-reaching and inclusive as an octopus's embrace. Let your ideas flow and make waves of creativity and inspiration.

1. CLUB OR STATE/DC FEDERATION INFORMATION	
Club Name	
State or DC Federation	
Club or State/DC Federation President's Name	
Contact Name	
Phone	Email

OCTOPUS CHALLENGE INSTRUCTIONS

Please provide two completed projects for each of the following four categories.

CATEGORY 1: ART
Art Entry A
Art Entry B

CATEGORY 2: MUSIC
Music Entry A
Music Entry B

CATEGORY 3: DANCE/THEATRE
Dance/Theatre Entry A
Dance/Theatre Entry B

CATEGORY 4: CULTURE
Culture Entry A
Culture Entry B

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OCTOPUS CHALLENGE BONUS CATEGORIES

Boost your score! Provide two completed project entries for these optional categories.

BONUS CATEGORY 1: PROJECTS SUPPORTING AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION
BONUS Entry A
BONUS Entry B

BONUS CATEGORY 2: CULTURAL TRADITIONS
BONUS Entry A
BONUS Entry B

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

- ☐ All 8 primary entries are completed.
- ☐ Bonus entries are included (optional).
- ☐ Contact information is accurate.

Signature _____ Date _____

An Octopus Challenge Award Certificate will be presented to all clubs or State Federations completing the challenge, with special acknowledgment for those also completing the bonus projects. Recognition will be given at the Region Banquets during the 2028 International Convention.

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