



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

# GFWC Leadership Education and Development Seminar (LEADS)

The GFWC Leadership, Education, and Development Seminar identifies GFWC members at the local level who have the potential and desire to assume leadership positions in their State Federations and/or GFWC on the national level. Participation in GFWC LEADS can help up-and-coming leaders gain the capabilities, confidence, and commitment necessary to pursue and achieve higher offices and serve with distinction.

GFWC LEADS is typically held annually on the day prior to the official opening of the GFWC Annual Convention. The program may include the following:

- Overview of public speaking, time management, vision casting, and conflict resolution.
- Explanation of GFWC resources, materials, and assistance.
- Outline of GFWC policies, parliamentary procedure, and protocol.
- Discussion of tips and techniques for pursuing personal growth and developing leadership opportunities.

## Application Process and Deadline

Each State Federation and International Affiliate may select one LEADS attendee annually.

**LEADS Candidate:** Return this form, along with two letters of support from active GFWC club members, to your State Federation by the state application deadline. If your state has a form, use that instead.

**State or International Affiliate Leadership Chairman or President:** Your chosen LEADS Candidate's application form (page 2 or similar, containing contact information) and Headshot are due to GFWC Second Vice President Mary Beth Williams ([mbwilliams@gfwc.org](mailto:mbwilliams@gfwc.org)) and GFWC Leadership Chairman Ann Landis ([annlandis55@gmail.com](mailto:annlandis55@gmail.com)) by March 15, 2026. Thank you!

## State and District LEADS Programs

States and Districts are encouraged to hold a LEADS program to identify and develop strong potential leaders prepared to assume club, District, and State Federations leadership positions. By implementing a well-designed LEADS event, the leadership gap of some experience will be addressed, and the talent and enthusiasm of a trained, confident group of volunteers will be more effectively used. The individual member, as well as our organization and communities, will benefit. The leadership can determine when the State Federation or District LEADS program is best conducted. The GFWC Leadership Committee can assist State and District leaders in creating half- and full-day events using materials available in the toolkit. States may choose to select one participant from their own LEADS program to attend GFWC LEADS.

# GFWC Leadership, Education and Development Seminar (LEADS) APPLICATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Club: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Please conceal the applicant's identity during selection deliberation

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**Please answer the following questions in as much detail as possible:**

(Attach a separate sheet of paper if more space is needed)

List all local club offices and/or chairmanships held: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List all District offices and/or chairmanships held: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List GFWC club/District programs/projects in which involved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List positions at the District, State Federation, and/or national level in which you are interested: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to:

- Cover costs to attend GFWC LEADS not covered by GFWC or state? Yes  No
- Share what you have learned at LEADS with your state's members? Yes  No

**Return this form, along with two letters of support from active GFWC club members, to your State Federation by the application deadline. State Federations submitting their candidate information to GFWC Second Vice President Mary Beth Williams and GFWC Leadership Chairman Ann Landis do not need to attach the letters of support.**

## Criteria for LEADS Participation

It is highly recommended that each State Federation or International Affiliate LEADS candidate meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrates leadership capabilities at the club level as an active club president, club officer, or club project or committee chairman.
- Exhibits a commitment to the Federation.
- Exhibits an understanding of the GFWC mission of community service, illustrated by programs and projects in which she is or has been involved.
- Demonstrates leadership characteristics, including, but not limited to, organization, responsibility, trustworthiness, enthusiasm, and flexibility.
- Exhibits an interest in and willingness to pursue higher leadership positions in GFWC.
- Agrees to share information gained from participation in LEADS with others in the State Federation.
- Understands and accepts potential expenses involved in participation.
- Has not held elected positions at or beyond the state level (this criterion is recommended in order to encourage potential leaders at the club level to apply).
- Has not attended a previous LEADS program. Members are eligible to attend only once.
- Agrees to make every effort to attend the Fall GFWC Region Conference to report on their LEADS experience.
- Must be a member of a per capita dues paying club, or a delegate of an International Affiliate as noted below.

## EXPENSES

GFWC demonstrates its commitment to training leaders by funding a portion of the expenses of candidates who are members of per capita dues paying clubs. State Federations may consider underwriting a portion of an attendee's expenses. LEADS candidates are asked to be responsible for a portion of their expenses as an affirmation of their personal commitment to leadership development and training. LEADS participants are responsible for making their own travel and lodging arrangements.

### **State Federation attendees:**

- Travel and lodging stipend of \$325.00.
- Lunch during the LEADS program (no registration fee is required).

Checks will be distributed to candidates upon completion of the seminar.

### **International Affiliates:**

One attendee from each International Affiliate is welcome to apply and participate in LEADS at a cost of \$60.00, the GFWC stipend for travel and lodging allowance do not apply.