



WHAT IS GFS?

GFS (Girls' Friendly Society) was founded in 1875 and is a worldwide, faith-based organization affiliated with the Episcopal Church.

The spirit of GFS has never changed from providing a support system to help girls mature and thrive. Growing up isn't easy in today's world. Serving others with one's peer group, mentored by compassionate adult leaders, is key to helping girls avoid risky behaviors and move through the stages of childhood, teens, and young adulthood. Leaders hail from all walks of life with the common goal to mentor every girl to form a strong sense of self, values, and ethics.

WHO CAN JOIN?

All girls, age 5 and up can join, regardless of religious affiliation.

THE BENEFITS OF GFS

GFS focuses on helping girls achieve mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual growth in a faith-based setting. A GFS branch is a supportive peer group outside of school and promotes healthy interaction among girls of diverse socio-economic, racial, and cultural backgrounds. Along with fun activities and fellowship, current social justice issues and everyday challenges are discussed to increase girls' understanding of others and to help them think through their own values and choices.

GIRLS ARE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO:

- Practice positive socialization skills
- Be a part of an international network
- Participate as a team in service programs and parish activities
- Increase spiritual understanding
- Explore their role in the world



GFS PROGRAMS

The GFS program encourages service to others, provides membership in a caring community, and offers a badge program to study and discuss the Bible, Christian history and faith values.

The national GFS network provides:

- Opportunities to travel to national events and global councils
- Leadership positions for teen members
- Scholarships for college

Each local branch is allowed the flexibility to develop its own meeting schedule balancing service activities for others, worship, recreation, study, and reflection. The small-group format of GFS meetings works well to build trust and encourage individual leadership skills and provides a platform for girls to participate at the national and global level.

For more information on GFS programs and activities, check out www.gfsus.org

Today's generation values personal relationships and meaningful action

GFS introduces girls to the welcoming community of the Episcopal Church and gives them the opportunity to do significant, meaningful work to make the world a better place for others. As a GFS leader, you can provide an environment for girls to develop their spiritual lives and make good friends, free from academic and athletic stress. You will walk alongside girls as they meet their challenges and you, too, will reap the rewards of growing your faith and serving others.

A leader's most important characteristic is to be a good listener and to provide understanding, encouragement and support to girls as they mature. To learn more about GFS leadership, you can contact GFSUSALeaderInfo@gmail.com and find out how to get involved in the GFS ministry.



A GFS MEMBER PROMISES TO:

- *Share God's love for all people*
- *Worship and serve faithfully*
- *Make her words true and actions right*
- *Grow strong in mind, body, and spirit*
- *Make the world a better place to live*

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT GFS?

Visit our website at www.gfsus.org
or email GFSBranchDev@gmail.com

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GFS is an affiliate of Episcopal Church Women
and a ministry of the Episcopal Church.



TRANSFORMING GIRLS, TRANSFORMING THE WORLD

