



## What is GFS?

The Girls' Friendly Society (GFS) is an international, non profit organization affiliated with the Episcopal Church, for girls and young women between the ages of 5 and 21, regardless of race, religion or nationality.

The purpose of GFS is to provide girls with a program of support that helps them grow and mature into healthy, productive adults. Through a program that focuses on worship, outreach, study and recreation, GFS helps its members develop their talents and skills and gain the self esteem and confidence necessary for coping in a complex adult world.

Founded in England in 1875 and in America in 1877, GFS has members scattered among dozens of local branches throughout the United States and 24 countries.



## What does GFS provide that other organizations do not?

GFS focuses on developing and helping girls achieve mental, emotional, physical and spiritual growth.

GFS is unique in that it continually adapts its programs and activities to the changing needs of today's young women in their church and community.



## What are the benefits of GFS?

GFS offers regular meetings and the support of adults and peers so necessary to a young girls' life. Adult leaders provide caring, patient, one to one guidance, helping each GFS member develop her own talents, skills and self-confidence.

### Other benefits offered include

- **Spiritual growth and awareness.**
- **Participation in community and parish activities.**
- **The opportunity to make new friends.**
- **Interaction with a diverse group of girls, with different backgrounds and interests.**



## What programs and activities does GFS offer?

GFS programs and activities center on the GFS tradition of worship, service to others, study and recreation.

There are no rigid program requirements; each local GFS branch develops activities and programs for the needs of their members. GFS branches usually hold a weekly meeting with activities that include Christian worship services, community service projects, study and discussion about the bible, field trips, family activities, recreational activities and creative arts and crafts. Leadership materials are available.

[www.gfsusa.org](http://www.gfsusa.org)





***For girls and young women  
growing up isn't easy***

To move from girlhood to maturity girls today must deal with a complex array of pressures and influences.

Positive role models and peer relationships are hard to find.

The Girls' Friendly Society offers girls and young women, ages 5-21 positive guidance from adult leaders and help to develop values and experiences that support growth as well as friendships that last a life time.

GFS leaders focus on developing the whole person. They help girls achieve mental, emotional, physical and spiritual growth through a flexible wide-ranging program of activities, designed to provide broad participation for a well rounded life in the church and community.



***Make a difference in a girl's  
life — and in your own.***

**Become a GFS leader**

GFS needs adult leaders. If you wish to invest your time and talents working with girls, and are willing to work with the Episcopal Church, parents and others involved in GFS, then you qualify as a leader of a GFS branch.

GFS leaders hail from all walks of life: mothers, grandmothers, career/professional women, homemakers, clergy and retired women. Some are members of the Episcopal Church, some are not. Some have had leadership experience in another organization, some may not.

What's more important is a leader's desire to provide understanding, encouragement and support that girls need as they mature.

If you are interested in becoming a GFS leader, would like to start a branch or want more information visit our web site.

[www.gfsusa.org](http://www.gfsusa.org)

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Leading  
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