

# Girls Friendly Society Leadership Manual



## Guide For Establishing A New GFS Branch

### Who can be a leader?

- The primary branch leader/advisor must be a communicant of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America. Additional leaders may or may not be communicants of Episcopal Church of the United States of America.
- A branch leader is a woman who embraces the responsibility of working with girls to provide the understanding, encouragement, training and support that girls need to mature.
- A branch leader is a woman who is always growing as a person and in her relationship with God, has the strength of her Christian convictions, and is willing to understand other's needs and interests.

### How many girls are needed?

- Remember, *for where two or more are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.* Matthew 18:17.
- A branch can include all ages of girls between ages 5 and 21. It is recommended that they divide into smaller groups for badge studies. However, for fellowship, fun and service activities, the mixed group allows older members to model good behavior and practice leadership skills
- Membership is open to all girls of any race or religion.

### How to rally parish support

- The GFS branch should have very close relationship with its parish. Planning should incorporate the parish priest's input. Members of the congregation should be relied on as resources.
- Hold an introductory meeting with the parish priest, parents, former GFS members, and vestry members. Ask for support from the diocesan board.
- Host a fun service activity to bring the girls and parish together as a team. For instance, offer a free parish spaghetti dinner if parishioners will bring Christmas gifts for the local soup kitchen or homeless shelter.

### Diocesan requirements

- Obtain the permission of parish priest and submit a **Charter Application** to the president of GFS/LA

### Tips for successful meetings

- Make plan for the year using the **Schedule Planner**
- Supply a snack.
- Make a reminder phone call or email the day before your meetings.
- Set up the room before the members arrive.
- Maintain an attendance chart, keep records of parish service and community service hours.
- Retain a notebook for each girl to collect her badge work.
- Plan a balanced schedule of badge work, community service activities, fellowship activities and fun.
- End every meeting with the Friendship Circle Song. This creates a fun tradition.
- Ask parents to share responsibilities of providing snacks, preparing craft activities, planning outings and supervising service projects.
- Follow recommendations for prevention of sexual misconduct. Have two leaders present at all times.
- Take photographs to share with the [www.gfscalifornia.org](http://www.gfscalifornia.org) website and for scrapbooks and newsletters

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**Sample GFS Master Schedule**

Meeting Date	Snack	Devotional Reading	Service Project	Badge Work	Extra Enrichment Activities
September 20	Teri	Page 13			Beginning of year party and crafts
October 11	Joan	Page 25	Dog toys for animal shelter	Blue Group: Dorcas Badge Green Group: Fish Badge	
October 25	Madeline	Page 7		Blue Group: Dorcas Badge Green Group: Fish Badge	Spider Bread for Halloween
November 8	Brianna	Page 14	Make Thanksgiving card for senior citizens	Blue Group: Dorcas Badge Green Group: Fish Badge	
November 22	Teri	Page 24		Blue Group: Dorcas Badge Green Group: Fish Badge	Learn to wrap a gift package
December 13	Joan	Page 9			Make gifts for parents
January 10	Madeline	Page 16		Blue Group: Elizabeth Badge Green Group: Star Badge	
etc					
etc					
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