

ESO – Epsilon Sigma Omicron

CALLING ALL READERS!

What is it?

- A self-paced program giving recognition for reading.
- An honorary educational society established by GFWC in 1928 open to all GFWC dues-paying members. California's chapter was chartered in 1954.
- The program is designed to encourage women to read a diverse array of books, stimulating a desire for self-improvement and expanding areas of interest.

How Does It Work?

- Submit a pledge application to the club ESO chair*
- Read books
- Write brief notes to log your reading. & complete categories.
- Club chair collects and submits forms to District for recognition of completion.
- District Chair forwards info to State Chair for tracking and issuing certificates.
- Club gets credit for hours spent reading and writing reports – log on the hours sheets. Double win!
- Members are responsible for tracking their own progress.

Are there meetings?

Currently, some clubs hold physical meetings, some hold Zoom meetings. Members can share they are reading and recommending. Field trips may be arranged to bookstores, library events and more.

Where do I find information and forms?

Ask club chair for copies/information.

- See ESO section on the CFWC website (www.cfwc.org) for instructions and report form (one category per page) available to print.
- Copy forms as needed.
- An updated (2020) handbook and a suggested reading list is available to print from the GFWC website (www.gfwc.org). Log into member portal. Click on your profile. Select “my digital library”. Search for ESO.

*No club Chair? Start a group and BE the Chair! Or, submit applications to District Chair or State Chair directly.

ESO Levels of Achievement

- **Pledge:** A Pledge has signed an enrollment application and has started to fulfill the reading requirements. Submit copy of pledge form to District/State Chair for tracking membership and achievements.
- **Member:** Read and report on four books from four different categories, for a total of 16 books. She is then eligible to purchase and wear the ESO pin and receive a membership certificate and ID number for that achievement.
- **Star Level:** Read and report on four books from ten different categories, for a total of 40 books. She will then receive a Star level membership certificate and ID number for that achievement.
- **Torch Level:** Read and report on four books from 16 different categories, for a total of 64 books read. She is then eligible to purchase and wear the ESO Torch Guard and receive the Torch level membership certificate.
- **Century Award:** A Century Award member has completed 100 books. She can then continue to the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, and so on. She will receive recognition for each century completed. *At this level, reports are no longer required, nor are category fulfillments. Read whatever you choose! A spreadsheet with author & title is sufficient. Some members log their hours here as well, and any other information deemed useful.*
- **Diamond Award:** A Diamond Award member has completed 1,000 books. She will be eligible to receive a Diamond Award certificate.

Note: Each level must contain books not previously reported. Audio and Kindle books also count. Although categories may be repeated, “branching out” is encouraged.

What is the reward for participating?

- Recognition for achievement at each level.
- Meet with other members who enjoy reading like you do
- Discover new authors, subjects and interests
- Expand knowledge
- Participate in stimulating discussions
- Club benefits by reported hours