

**Planning to establish
Girls' Friendly Society
at your Church?**



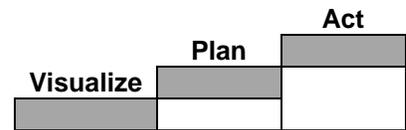
1,2,3....From idea to reality

www.gfsus.org

Use this worksheet to plan and build a supportable GFS program.

1. Visualize your future GFS group

Don't ever think that you need a large group to have a successful GFS branch. Quantity is not quality and we have to remember that even 2 or 3 girls are worth the effort. In fact, a small group is a realistic way to start. Start small and build from there.

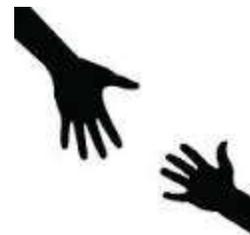


List the girls in your parish or community that could be members of GFS:

Reflect: What influence do you think you can make on the faith life of girls through GFS?

2. Two are stronger than one (and required!)

Find at least one person who will commit to this adventure with you. Start meeting regularly over coffee or on the phone/Skype to start to explore the GFS program.



- A co-leader is required in order to comply with our safe church policies.
- A partner leader can encourage you, serve as an associate, and be part of a creative force

Look around your parish and consult the church directory for a co-leader. Ask the priest of your parish for suggestions. List your ideas for a co-leader here:

Name	Phone/Email	Results

Reflect: How do you feel about working with another person to build a GFS branch?

3. GFS-USA will be there to help

- Review the GFS-USA website at www.gfsus.org to obtain explanations of our program and policies.
- You can contact the following people directly for assistance:

Margaret Nolde	margaretn63@sbcglobal.net	714-330-1156
Lydia Kugler	lydia_kugler@me.com	609-532-8764
Delores Alleyne	deloresalleyne@aol.com	203-745-8398

- We will work with you through regular phone conversations and travel to meet with your team if needed.

GFS-USA pledges to respond to your requests for advice, assistance and guidance.

4. Plan financial and in-kind support for your new branch:

a. Financial

- GFS-USA provides \$100 each year
- Request to be a line item in the church budget
- Assess dues from members, ie: \$20 per family per year
- Simple fundraisers

List possible sources of support you can request:

Source	Amount	Source	Amount
GFS-USA	\$100 per year	Member Dues	
Church support		Fundraising	

- b. List sources of support for in-kind donations (craft supplies, printing, tools) and people who will help you with small tasks (computer work, cutting out items, dropping off snacks, “manual labor”)

Name	Phone/Email	Talents/Resources

Remember that every form of support, in any amount, not only gives people a chance to be part of the GFS ministry but also causes them to be “invested” in the program.

5. Obtain the approval of your rector or vicar

Now that you have researched the GFS program and assembled the financial resources and assistance that you need, you must obtain the permission of your rector proceed. This is because the request to charter a new branch will be signed by your rector, and possibly the bishop of your diocese. (If no other GFS branch exists in your diocese, the bishop’s signature is also required on the charter request.)

A GFS-USA Branch Development committee member can attend this meeting either in person or via an online meeting such as Skype.

Persons to Contact	Notes
Priest:	
Bishop:	
GFS-USA (as listed above)	

Reflect: The founder of GFS, Mary Townsend, devoted 3 years to formulating a viable plan for GFS and obtained the support of her bishop, her rector and 2 other women. Pray and think about how you will rally others to support your plan.

6. Recruit members

Every local context will be different. Discern whom you will serve. For example, you could:

- a. Form a branch from the ground up – start with 5-8 year olds from your church and add new younger members every year. This is a good format for a program that is focused on girls in the existing church membership.
- b. Form a combined church and community group – the GFS program is open to all girls, no matter their faith background. Put up fliers in your neighborhood, encourage girls to bring their school friends and place an announcement in the local edition of the newspaper. Inviting girls from the community to join GFS will help your church evangelize in your neighborhood.

Request GFS Brochures from GFSUSApresident@gmail.com.

As you speak to potential members, you will want to convey the message that GFS will provide a healthy place for girls to learn more about their faith and explore their questions in a positive Christian environment. Participation in GFS reinforces their commitment to a life-long journey with Christ.

Be aware of the girls’ and parents’ concerns and interests. Select a meeting time that you can commit to but that also works with your members’ schedules. Keep notes so you can make a suitable plan.

More material is online at www.gfsus.org/Ideas and Forms for Leaders to advise on how to plan and hold a first meeting.

Reflect: How has this planning process affected your confidence in your plan?