

LOCAL CLUB - GENERAL INFORMATION

The following information relates to the local church, club, and mentor. It is basic for all three clubs.

BECOMING A MEMBER

Girls Clubs are for any girl in grades preschool -12 (Little Sweethearts - Preschool; Bluebelles - Grades 1-3; Joy Belles - Grades 4 -6; YLM - Grades 7-12). The girl does not have to be a member of the Church of God or a Christian. Of course, the highest aspiration is that every club member will become a Christian, be sanctified and be filled with the Holy Spirit. However, this is also an outreach ministry to all girls, drawing them first to the church, and then to Christ as their Savior.

UNIFORM

Backpacks, a sash pattern, iron-on transfers and club insignias are available from Pathway Press. The girls in the clubs should be encouraged to use their own ideas and club colors to create their own unique uniforms (club t-shirts are an inexpensive way to do this). Backpacks or sashes are a great way to display badges.

OFFICERS

Being an officer of Girls Clubs is not only a great honor, but also a time for training. It is good for each member to hold some office for a designated period of time. These can be appointed by the mentor or voted on by the girls. Officers include a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Having club officers is at the discretion of the Mentor or Local Coordinator as it is not mandatory.

CLUB DIVISIONS

When the number of girls in a club reaches 10-12, there may be a need to divide into smaller groups. This allows for more personal attention. If it becomes necessary to divide a club, it should be done by grade level. Mentors may be selected for each group, or one mentor may use assistants. The entire club can come together for devotions and study time, and then divide into groups for activities. As in any part of the Girls Clubs program, this is left to the discretion of the mentor.

FINANCE

Girls Clubs will be faced with the expense of materials, socials, special projects, etc. The means of acquiring finances for these items is decided on by the mentor in consultation with the pastor and Women's Discipleship Director. Some clubs have the girls pay dues. Many of the clubs launch fund-raising activities to cover expenses. The mentor knows best what will work in her own club.

The mentor and club treasurer should keep an accurate record of all finances and be able to submit a report at any time.

REPORTING

It is very important that the club secretary or mentor report each month to the state office, postmarked by the 5th of each month. The state/regional Girls Ministries coordinator then compiles a report from all the clubs reporting to her, and sends a composite report to the international Girls Ministries coordinator. Faithful reporting keeps the state and international coordinators informed as to the progress of the clubs and assists in planning for future ministry.

PRAYER MOTHER MINISTRY

This ministry is beneficial to the girls and women who volunteer their time. In the Prayer Mother ministry, a woman is assigned a girl to pray for daily, encourage in church attendance, listen when they have something to say, assist with curriculum if needed, remember on special occasions, and provide moral support.

The girl is also a blessing to her Prayer Mother. She prays for her daily, remembers her on special occasions, and joins her in various activities.

Heart to Heart--Defining the Prayer Mother Program is a step-by-step guide to beginning this ministry in the local church and is available from the Pathway Press. Love Drops, an installation ceremony for the prayer mothers and daughters, commitment cards and ribbons are also available.

INITIAL STEPS FOR A FRUITFUL BEGINNING

(FOR ALL CLUBS)

STEP 1 - CONSULT YOUR PASTOR

After praying and seeking the will of God, consult the pastor. He will support Girls Ministries and welcome the opportunity to discuss this inspirational approach for girls. His prayers, advice, and involvement will be valuable. He should be asked about ordering needed materials and about a promotional strategy among adults and youth who are in the church, and youth in the community.

STEP 2 - INVOLVE YOUR LOCAL WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP

International Girls Ministries is under the auspices of the Youth & Discipleship Department. However, please seek the help and advice of the local Women's Discipleship and give them a chance for active involvement. Some women may desire to be prayer mothers. Others may offer homes or facilities for meetings or a kick-off campaign. Some may even assist in purchasing curriculum.

STEP 3 - REVIEW AND ORDER THE MATERIAL

Review the material carefully. Get acquainted with major topics of study included in the curriculum. To have a successful Girls Ministries, it is imperative to secure material and allow time for the mentor to make adequate preparations. An ideal time for clubs to begin is the first Wednesday night of September. Material should be ordered at least one month in advance.

STEP 4 - MEET WITH PARENTS

Parental support is vital to the Girls Ministries. If possible, go over the curriculum with the parents and emphasize the purpose and goals of the program. Reiterate the need for their support and cooperation.

STEP 5 - MEET WITH PRAYER MOTHERS

The prayer mother ministry is a Biblical principle in action (Titus 2:3-5). Solicit the Prayer Mothers' prayer, encouragement, and time. Refer to *Heart to Heart-Defining the Prayer Mother Program* for a step-by-step guide to beginning this ministry.

STEP 6 - INFORM YOUR GIRLS

Inform the girls about the club. Make them aware of the curriculum format. Generate excitement by introducing some of the forthcoming activities. Encourage them to invite their school friends and neighbors.

STEP 7 - PROMOTE GIRLS MINISTRIES

Promote Girls Ministries through the church bulletin, public announcements, a special newsletter, posters and other available media.

STEP 8 - CHARTER AND MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Charter the club, making it an official part of Girls Ministries internationally. When chartering, membership cards are available free of charge, one for each girl. Other material may be ordered as needed, and may be found in on-line shopping at pathwaypress.org or girlsministries.org.

STEP 9 - CONDUCT A KICK-OFF CAMPAIGN

To begin the year, conduct a kick-off campaign such as a lock-in, slumber party, afternoon tea, or orientation meeting. Make this event exciting and inspirational for the girls. This would be a good time to elect officers, discuss uniforms, hand out a schedule of activities and any other club business. The state Girls Ministries coordinator would be an ideal speaker for the occasion.

STEP 10 - YOU ARE READY TO START!

Double check curriculum, room set-up, supplies, and Prayer Mother assignments. Check with your state/regional coordinator to see if online reporting is available or email your report if online reporting is not available. You can also download a report form at www.girlsministries.org (reports) and be sure to send it to the **STATE OFFICE** by the 5th of each month. Check with your state/regional Girls Ministries coordinator for details on the state Girls Ministries awards program.

