

## GFS Leader Requirements and Responsibilities



Women who are interested in furthering the purpose of GFS may become advisors or leaders. Advisors help guide the GFS branch; leaders work directly with the members. The primary advisor/leader must be a communicant of the Episcopal Church. Additional leaders may or may not be communicants of the Episcopal Church.

All leaders and advisors are responsible for the welfare of each and every member. GFS/USA and GFS/LA require that leaders who work with the members receive Safe Church Training to prevent misconduct and keep a current certificate on file at their parish.

An ideal Christian leader is always growing as a person and in her relationship with God. She has the strength of her Christian convictions. She is honest, sincere, kind, and straightforward. She appreciates the rights and needs of others.

### ***To the branch leaders:***

As a branch leader, you hold a special position of responsibility. You are making a commitment to yourself as well as of yourself. Because you will be giving a great deal of yourself, you must develop a support system suitable to your needs. Remember Christ said, "I am with you always." In order to remain a strong leader, find tangible ways to make this true in your life and leadership.

It is your role to influence the group toward the achievement of their goals. This involves understanding what is important to each member and creating an environment in which she can learn and grow. Involving the members in planning activities will help you see the program through their eyes and better meet their needs. If they feel the program addresses their goals and values, the members will respond positively and enthusiastically.

As a leader you will be developing and exercising leadership skills that will include decision making, problem solving and resource development. You will be directive, supportive and achievement oriented. As such, you will be open to new ideas, a good listener, and willing to challenge and be challenged. In addition, you will be a promoter of GFS and the guardian of the relationship between your branch and your priest and parish.

Part of your responsibility is to be aware that the members in your group are growing, energetic, and inquiring. It is important to recognize each member as a whole person with unique intellectual and physical abilities, personality traits, emotional states and maturity levels shaped by her background and experiences.

Thus, for you and the members, recognition of individual aspirations, abilities, and home environments is necessary. Listening, respecting each other's rights, understanding needs and interests, and growing in spirit and knowledge should be goals mutually shared by you and the members.