OUTSTANDING CROWN CLUB SERVICE PROJECT AWARD ENTRY
2016-2017

CHAPTER NAME: Junior Auxiliary of DeSoto County

FOUNDING YEAR OF CROWN CLUB: 2011-2012

NUMBER OF CROWN CLUB MEMBERS: 47

JA CHAIR/CO-CHAIRS OF CLUB: Chair – Sarah Samples

POSTMARK ON OR BEFORE:
MARCH 15, 2017

U.S. MAIL ADDRESS TO:
NAJA HEADQUARTERS
P.O. BOX 1873
GREENVILLE, MS 38702-1873

OR

U.P.S. ADDRESS TO:
845 SOUTH MAIN
GREENVILLE, MS 38701

OR
najanet@bellsouth.net

Give brief description of Crown Club, including age range of members, how members are selected, how projects are chosen, how often and how long members meet, and all requirements for membership, including meeting attendance and service hours worked. Does the club have a Web site? Our Crown Club members are 9th-12th grades from all 8 high schools in DeSoto County. Applications are delivered to all the high schools and passed out to any interested girls. The application includes an essay that explains why the candidate would be a good member. The girls have to be sponsored by either a JA member or their school counselor. Daughters of JA members do not have to have a sponsor. Other membership requirements are the candidate must have a 3.0 grade point average and have lived in DeSoto County for a year. Also, each member is required to pay $50 yearly dues. The members must attend two-thirds of the regular meetings and maintain a 3.0 GPA. Crown Club meets once a month from September to April for one hour. We do have a section on the JA DeSoto website with information the girls might need.

Name of project being nominated: Carols and Cocoa

How long has this club performed this project? First year of service project

Cost of project and method of funding it? $451.69 and funds came from JA DeSoto Crown Club Budget

Number of JA advisors directly assisting with project: 4

Number of people helped by project: 75

Is this a one-time project, or ongoing? Crown Club would like this to be a continuous project.

In 500 words or less, DOUBLE SPACED; (attach separate essay), describe this project. Specifically include in the essay the following: Send one digital photo per entry either email or on disc.

- Why and how it fills a need in the community;
- How the club discovered the need for the project;
- When it began and the amount of time needed to complete it;
- How many members were directly involved in working the project;
- How it builds both a better community and a stronger Crown Club;
- How it demonstrates initiative, ingenuity and imagination in searching out the needs of the community;
• How the project's Crown Club leaders were chosen, and planning and preparation involved in organizing the project; and
• The project's net result – what did it achieve, and did it meet its intended need?

If this Crown Club has a constitution, please attach a copy to the awards entry form.

**IT IS UNNECESSARY TO SUBMIT ANY SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL. THE AWARD WILL BE JUDGED ON THE NARRATIVE ONLY.**
During the holiday season, the world seems ablaze with the fire of giving. Presents and extra cheer all are doled out without reservation. The thing that seems to be in short supply during this busy month is time. Everyone seems to be running to complete a never-ending to-do list. When the girls of Crown Club of DeSoto County met to discuss a new service project in Fall of 2016, it was this precious commodity that they wanted to give. The question was asked: Who is most in need of TIME spent with others this season? It was not long before the “Carols and Cocoa” service project was born: an initiative to throw a party at Southern Pines, a housing unit for low-income elderly residents.

Contact with Southern Pines and the planning for “Carols and Cocoa” began in October after the JA President relayed information she had received about the facility and its residents. Visits from family are infrequent, and residents do not have many resources. Crown Club members knew this was a place in which time would serve a real and immediate need in the community. For two months members collected items to create care package stockings to be given as gifts. They also planned games, refreshments, and music. Since this project was in its first year, members were able to discuss a variety of ideas and decide which would best fulfill their goal of providing an uplifting experience and one-on-one interaction with residents. The girls, along with their four JA advisors, worked as a unit, and chose not to elect a project chairperson. Everyone’s input was valued, and a team approach was seen as vital. Using funds from the provided $2500.00 budget, $451.69 was spent, and stockings were lovingly stuffed with everyday essentials.

On a Sunday afternoon thirty-two Crown Club members arrived at Southern Pines and threw two events at each of its buildings in order to easily accommodate residents. Hot Cocoa and cookies were served as carols were sung, and members sat down and spoke with residents. The party culminated with rousing games of bingo, complete with prizes, and each resident was given a stocking. In all, seventy-five were delivered.
The elderly population is not one that Crown Club often addresses. However, members were able to identify a need outside of their normal parameters to reach a part of their community that was neglected and in need of attention. The initiative taken to not only provide basic necessities, but also time, compassion, and conversation, showed awareness of what it is to truly address needs in one’s community. The experience opened the eyes of members to a new perspective and bonded them to form a stronger and more cohesive club. The result was physical and emotional needs of an elderly community were met and the Crown Club found yet another way to boldly serve and grow. Returning members are looking forward to reintroducing the project next year and returning to offer their time and hearts to those in need.
Crown Club
Of
Junior Auxiliary of DeSoto County, MS

CONSTITUTION

Article I-------Name

The name of the organization shall be Crown Club of Junior Auxiliary of DeSoto County, Mississippi.

Article II-------Objectives and Policies

Section 1. Objective---The objective of this organization shall be to foster interest among its members in the social, economic, educational, civic, and cultural conditions about them; to develop leadership and character; to prepare for good citizenship; and to demonstrate concern for others.

Section 2. Policies---The Crown Club shall be an affiliate of the Junior Auxiliary of DeSoto County, and its policies shall be in harmony with the policies of that chapter. All activities and projects of the Crown Club shall be subject to the approval of the advisor(s) who is an active member of Junior Auxiliary of DeSoto County. The advisor(s) shall direct all activities including membership, service projects, and finance requirements with the approval from the Board of Directors of the Junior Auxiliary of DeSoto County.

BY-LAWS

Article I-------Membership

Section 1. A candidate may be considered eligible for membership if she:

- Is a female student who has resided in DeSoto County for one year
- Is in grades 9th-12th
- Has maintained a 3.0 overall grade point average
- Has been nominated by a Junior Auxiliary active, provisional, or life/associate member in good standing
- Is a daughter or step-daughter of any active, provisional, or life/associate member in good standing
- If not a daughter/step-daughter of an active, provisional, life/associate member in good standing, must submit a letter of reference/recommendation
- Has been approved by Junior Auxiliary of DeSoto County, MS
Section 2. In order to maintain membership in good standing, a member of Crown Club of DeSoto County, MS must:

- Attend five of the eight regular monthly meeting within an annual period.
- Pay annual dues of $50 by October meeting
- Maintain a 3.0 grade point average
- Perform a minimum of 10 hours of service.

Section 3. Penalties---Any member who fails to maintain membership in good standing will be subject to review by the advisors with the possible penalty and/or dismissal.

- **Academic Average Penalty**---Any club member not maintaining the required cumulative 85% average at the end of each nine weeks shall be given one nine-week period to improve her average. During the probationary period, the member will attend monthly meetings, but will not be allowed to participate in other club activities including but not limited to service projects. If after probationary period the member’s average is not improved, member will be subject to additional review with possible dismissal.

- **Meeting Attendance Penalty**---Meeting attendance is mandatory. Five of the eight regular monthly meetings must be attended. There is no probationary action for this matter and members not achieving this requirement will be dismissed. Meetings begin at the appointed hours. Any member arriving more than fifteen minutes late will be considered absent unless an advisor gives prior approval.

- **Mandatory Projects Penalty**---Certain Projects are considered signature projects for Crown Club of DeSoto County, MS and participation in such is mandatory. The Crown Club of DeSoto County, MS advisors must approve any absence.

Section 4. Membership Quota---The authorized membership shall not exceed 60 members. Resignations from Crown Club of DeSoto, MS shall be considered permanent.

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**Article II------Dues**

Members shall pay $50.00 annual dues.

- Dues shall be payable by the October meeting each year. In the event of financial hardship, a review by the advisors will be made.
- Refund of dues will not be made to members who resign or are dismissed due to penalties.

**Article III------Meetings**
Section 1. Regular Meetings---One regular monthly meeting shall be held on the first Monday of each month. One hour meeting credit shall be given for regular club meetings. Meetings may be rescheduled or changed due to holidays or weather.

Section 2. Special Meetings---Special meeting shall be held at the discretion of the Executive Board and/or advisors.

Section 3. Quorum---A quorum shall consist of one-half of the current membership.

Article IV-------Advisors

There can be advisors consisting of active or associate Junior Auxiliary of DeSoto County, MS members. They shall approve all prospective projects, constitutional changes, and resignations. Crown Club of DeSoto County, MS monthly meetings and service projects shall be attended by a minimum of one advisor.

Article V-------Officers

Section 1. Personnel---The officers of Crown Club of DeSoto County, MS shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. Nomination of Officers---At the September meeting, members will nominate and vote for new officers. New officers will be installed in September and assume duties for the new service year. At the September meeting, members will vote to maintain or discontinue service projects.

Section 3. Powers and Duties of Officers---The powers and duties of the officers shall be as follows:

- **President**---The president shall serve as the chief executive officer of Crown Club of DeSoto County, MS. Her role is to ensure all actions taken by the club work to fulfill its purpose of leadership and volunteerism. As president, she will:
  1. Preside at general meetings
  2. Work with Crown Club advisors to prepare an agenda for each meeting
  3. Maintain order at each meeting to ensure necessary items are discussed and acted upon
  4. Resign her office if meeting, service hour, or academic requirements are not met

- **Vice President**---The vice-president shall serve as assistant executive officer. Her role will be to serve as president as needed and to ensure the club fulfills its obligation to the community through recorded hours of service. As vice-president, she will:
  1. Assume the duties of the president in her absence
2. Be president the following year
3. Maintain detailed monthly records of Crown Club members' service and committee hours
4. Meet with advisors to verify, correct, and/or amend recorded hours as needed.
5. Resign her office if meeting, service hour, or academic requirements are not met.

- **Secretary**---The secretary will serve as the official record keeper for the Crown Club of DeSoto County, MS. Her role is to ensure an accurate account of each general meeting is maintained to provide a history of the club. As secretary, she will:

1. Record activities, discussion, and actions at each executive board and general meeting.
2. Maintain and update a current roster of member’s names, telephone numbers, and addresses.
3. Appoint another member to carry out her responsibilities at the meeting in her absence.
4. Resign her office if meeting, service hour, or academic requirements are not met.

- **Treasurer**---The treasurer will serve as the chief financial officer for the Crown Club of DeSoto County, MS. Her role to ensure the financial stability of the club. As Treasurer, she will:

1. Collect dues and all monies
2. Present a financial report at each meeting
3. Appoint another member to carry out her responsibilities at each the meeting in her absence.
4. Resign her office if meeting, service hour, or academic requirements are not met.

**Article VIII-------Fiscal Policies**

**Section 1. Fiscal Year**---The fiscal year shall be from September 1\textsuperscript{st} to April 30\textsuperscript{th}. All hours must be turned in to the Vice-President each month with a final count to be made by April 30\textsuperscript{th}.
Crown Club Chair Advisor - Sarah Chandler - 662-420-4308
Advisors
Jennifer Allen - 901-734-3387
Alexis Baskin - 901-288-8088
Courtney Booker - 901-461-9981
Missy Cook - 901-283-2054
Ashley Turner - 901-734-0748

Meetings
September 12th
October 3rd
November 7th
December 5th
January 9th
February 6th
March 6th
April 3rd

Meetings for the 2016-2017 year will be held at Hernando United Methodist Church located at:
1890 Mt. Pleasant Road, Hernando, MS 38632