**How to Start a Crown Club in 10 Easy Steps!**

Are you thinking about getting a Crown Club established or perhaps re-established in your Chapter? Don’t know where to begin? There is no one right way to get a Crown Club off the ground. You need to do what works for your Chapter. But, here is one way to consider getting started.

1. Start discussions amongst your fellow JA members to gauge interest and commitment to the club.
2. Do the math! Is your Chapter ready for another Service project? Do you have the hands and hearts to fully work this project?
3. Talk to local school administrators to determine interest and possible meeting space.
4. Propose a Crown Club at your annual Projects meeting. Explain your plans, estimated hours and budget, etc.
5. Once approved as a Service project, have your Crown Club committee members work for the first year on planning only (no girls yet – JA Members only).
   - Meet with your committee monthly to review other Chapters’ Crown Club constitutions (available on NAJA website). Become familiar with how others are doing things. Don’t reinvent the wheel. Use the NAJA Bulletin to see which Crown Clubs have won awards in past years. Those might be a good place to start. Make some phone calls and chat with some who have had successes.
   - Decide age range and how many Crown Club members you can handle.
   - Research possible Service projects that could be completed by your Crown Club (you’ll need lots of options – as ultimately you want the girls to decide)
   - Make lists of possible Education hours you can present to your Crown Club members. Who can present and what are some great topics? Try to mix serious with fun throughout the year.
   - Determine how to advertise or invite your inaugural group of girls to join. Perhaps start with JA daughters (legacy members) for the first year and grow from there.
6. When you have your first group of Crown Club members, provide them with a shell/framework of a constitution. Allow them to determine the specifics. This is also true for their upcoming Service opportunities and Education hours. Remember, it’s their club. You are simply there to give advice and guide.
7. At this point, those JA members who are serving on the Crown Club Service project are advisors. They attend the Crown Club meetings, but only to mentor and assist the girls. Let the girls really learn and grow.
8. Keep detailed notes about how things are going and what changes need to be made year to year.
9. Keep your fellow JA members informed about the successes and challenges of your Crown Club. You need the support of your entire Chapter in order to sustain for years to come.
10. Enjoy watching amazing young women grow, lead and serve. So, maybe not 10 EASY STEPS. But so worth it.

Julie Springer, NAJA Recording Secretary

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**Let’s Shine Like the Jewels in Our Crown**

It’s hard to believe but AEC 2017 is less that 4 months away. I remember my first AEC like it was yesterday. I was so excited to attend and even more excited and pumped when I left there. I was ready to get back to my Chapter and share with them about all the things I had learned, all the speakers that had motivated me and all the wonderful ladies that I had met from the many Chapters in our Association. I was so inspired by that first conference that I have not missed a single AEC since and that was quite a number of years ago! I still look forward to attending each year and learning new things, getting inspired by our speakers and visiting with my JA sisters to learn what new and exciting projects and ideas are going on in their Chapter and how this may help other Chapters in our Association. Our Annual Education Conference is each Chapter’s opportunity to make an investment in their members - not just the members that are the leaders of the Chapter - but every member, from Provisional on up the line! AEC is a time for all of us to learn and share ideas and also celebrate the accomplishments our Chapters have made through the year. It’s also a time to re-energize ourselves and recharge our batteries, something that is such a vital part of having a successful and thriving Chapter. So, as you start planning to attend AEC 2017, invest in your members by making AEC 2017 a priority for your Chapter.

If you have questions about funding to send members to AEC (AEC Grants or a fund-raiser for AEC), please contact your CSC. See you in Memphis, May 5-6!

Edith Crosby  
CSC Region V West

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**AEC 2017 Youth Village Service Opportunity**

Once again you will have an opportunity to take part in a service opportunity in Memphis, by going out to spend a few hours with the residents of the Youth Villages. Youth Villages is a national organization that was founded in 1986 in Memphis, whose mission is to help children and families live successfully. Youth Villages is now in 13 states across the nation, focusing on helping the most vulnerable and troubled children. We will be visiting one of the two Memphis campuses and working with the children with recreational therapy (PE) and/or art and crafts activities. Offered as a pre-conference event, JA members will leave the hotel Friday at 8:30am and will be at the Villages from 9:00am until 11:00am.

**The History of the Junior Auxiliary Pin**

As we celebrate our 75th year history this year, we thought it appropriate to share the history of the Junior Auxiliary Pin. At the Executive Board meeting of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries held in Jackson, MS in 1945, a pin was adopted for the use of the organization members who through service are entitled to wear it. The pin chosen was designed by Mrs. Donald Tatman of Pine Bluff, AR. It is in the shape of a crown, signifying a mark of honor for service rendered; a reward for achievement.

On the points of the crown she placed five pearls which symbolize: Charity, Youth, Health, Community Service and Leadership, the ideals behind the work of Junior Auxiliary.