

ABOUT SOROPTIMIST

Soroptimist was coined from the Latin words **soror**, meaning “sister”, and **optima**, meaning “best”; together interpreted as ‘**the best for women**’. While Soroptimist Clubs are open to both men and women, all members promote the mission; **Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.**

WHO STARTED SOROPTIMIST?

When women suffragettes in the U.S. won the RIGHT TO VOTE in 1920, women did not suddenly have equal opportunity. For example, women could not join “MEN’S” Clubs until almost 90 years later, when the Supreme Court forced integration of gender-exclusive institutions.

So 100 years ago, a group of professional women had to invent their own service Club, and that’s how the first Soroptimist Club was formed in Oakland in 1921. Women wanted to serve, and Clubs soon sprang up coast to coast and spread to several continents. Today there are over 1,300 Clubs in 21 countries and territories around the world.

It’s amazing how far we’ve come, but we still have a long way to go to fulfil the Soroptimist core values, which are:

**Gender Equality * Empowerment
Education * Diversity and Fellowship**



JOIN AN “S” CLUB

Contact the Soroptimist Club representative listed below for information about joining or chartering an “S” Club in your high school.

Soroptimist International of

Club Contact: _____

Club Email: _____

School Representative: _____



SOROPTIMIST “S” CLUBS

SERVICE IN SCHOOL -- IN HOME -- IN SOCIETY



SOROPTIMIST “S” CLUBS

**Make a difference in
your community!**



"S" CLUBS * "S" CLUBS * "S" CLUBS * "S" CLUBS * "S" CLUBS * "S" CLUBS

WHAT ARE "S" CLUBS?

"S" Clubs are *service Clubs* for high school-aged students, and are considered "projects" of Soroptimist Clubs. "S" Clubs members become vital to all high school extracurricular groups, offering a great way for high school students to learn about serving others and helping in the community. "S" Clubs are committed to the Soroptimist mission of *providing women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.*

HOW "S" CLUBS STARTED

Soroptimist is deeply involved in promoting equal opportunity and human rights for women and girls. In 1966, the United Nations granted consultative status to Soroptimist on service projects for children. In that same year Soroptimist created the first "*Sigma*" Clubs for college women and "S" Clubs for high school-aged girls. Service Clubs today are coed, including "S" clubs. All members work for the same club mission regardless of gender.



WHAT DOES AN "S" CLUB DO?

"S" Club members have fun making a difference for their school and community! New "S" Club members initially choose their Club name, select officers, and develop a charter which defines their Club values and goals toward fulfilling the mission of Soroptimist.

Established "S" Clubs set their own annual agenda for meetings, fundraising, and projects. Projects can range from creating food drives for the needy, to helping fire victims, or putting on educational programs for teen dating violence awareness. The "S" Club focus is not merely service, but service that can improve the lives of women and girls.



"S" CLUB SUPPORT

"S" Clubs are sponsored by Soroptimist Clubs with a school staff teacher/advisor and at least one Soroptimist Club member-liaison to guide the students in their service and fundraising projects during the school year. "S" Clubs are formed under the umbrella of the Soroptimist non-profit organizations.

Local Soroptimist Clubs forming an "S" Club will work with their Region Committee, which can provide information and advice, as well as being a source of startup funds for new "S" Clubs and grants to help with specific projects.

SOROPTIMIST CLUB PROJECTS

"S" Clubs plan their own service activities, AND they will be invited to assist with local Soroptimist clubs projects. Working side-by-side with Soroptimists, "S" Club members can gain valuable skills in everything from event planning, accounting, organizing, speaking, leadership, to technical problem solving and even construction. But the best part is bonding while planning and doing Fundraisers!

Our local Soroptimist Clubs will give you information about fundraising and service projects they are currently working on. These range from craft fairs, radio programs, spaghetti feeds or fashion shows, to helping with our exciting *Dream It Be It* program, helping at-risk youth, or blood drives.