



Soroptimist Frequently Asked Questions

What is Soroptimist International of the Americas?

Soroptimist International of the Americas is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment, specifically those facing significant obstacles. Access to education is one of the most effective ways to end social problems disproportionately affecting women and girls.

Why does Soroptimist focus on women and girls?

Soroptimist was formed because in 1921, women who were interested in volunteering in their communities were not permitted to join male service organizations. Since that time, SIA has worked to help women improve their standing in the world. Despite tremendous strides, women still do not enjoy equal economic or social status with their male counterparts in any country on earth.

What programs does Soroptimist offer?

The cornerstone of SIA's impact is our Dream Programs.

The *Live Your Dream: Education and Training Awards for Women* provides women who are the primary source of financial support for their families with cash grants to improve their education, skills and employment prospects. Each year, over \$3 million in education grants are awarded to more than 2,300 women, many of whom have overcome enormous obstacles on their path to economic empowerment. Award recipients can use the grants to offset any costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education, such as books, childcare, tuition, and transportation.

Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls helps girls grow up to be strong, successful, happy adults by targeting girls in secondary school who face obstacles to their future success. Soroptimists work with girls in small groups or a conference to provide girls with access to professional role models, career education, and the resources to live their dreams. Over 20,000 girls annually participate in the program globally.

SIA's programs are funded by investment income, member dues, and contributions from clubs, members, businesses, and individuals as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

How can I join?

Visit our website and submit [a Join Us interest form](#) to learn more!