

NIKE CLUB INFORMATION

Have you heard the saying, "If you can't find BPW members then just grow them"? That doesn't mean each of us must physically give birth to a future BPW member...no way! We have plenty future members waiting for us to shape and mold them right here in our high schools and universities. Who am I talking about? Nike and Samothrace members, that's who!

Most BPW members know NIKE to be the winged Goddess of Victory, called Victoria by the ancient Romans. On our emblem she symbolizes the strength, power, and ultimate triumph of our efforts to advance woman's estate. Blowing upon a trumpet held in her right hand and bearing a battle trophy in her left, Nike faced into the wind and waves, inspiring ancient Greek mariners to deeds of courage and valor. The resolution of her stance and the majesty of her outstretched wings inspire us to emulate her strength and determination, and to rededicate ourselves to further implementation of our objectives.

Goals of Nike and Samothrace Clubs include: creating an awareness of career opportunities, learning to serve the school and community, developing leadership, teaching acceptance of responsibilities and gaining knowledge about college. High school and college students have a multitude of choices to make about life styles, careers, continuing education, and a role in the community. Making these decisions is a task that requires strength, determination, guidance, mentoring, information and encouragement. What better way for BPW to be involved in a young person's life than to encourage and motivate, or even better - to serve as a mentor!

Starting a Nike or Samothrace Club requires some planning. BPW Clubs must agree to be supportive, not only financially, but also emotionally and physically. Once a BPW Club agrees to sponsor a Nike Club, a BPW representative talks to the high school principal or college dean of students to discuss organizing a club. Find out the criteria required for organizing a club on school campus, make plans for an informational meeting, be prepared to assist the school sponsors and have BPW information available for the students.

Once the Nike or Samothrace Club is formed, select a BPW liaison to attend the Nike or Samothrace Club meetings. Invite the students to attend BPW meetings, join in community projects and participate in programs such as Foundation, Individual Development, National Business Women's Week or Equal Pay Day. Invite students to your job site and become their mentors. For young students preparing to enter the job market, there is probably no other organization that will assist them more than a Nike or Samothrace Club.

Malina Sutton, 2000 BPW/USA and BPW/Texas Individual Development Winner, was a Nike Club member. Malina says that it was in her Nike Club that she learned how to walk up to someone and introduce herself. She learned that hard work does pay off (she was Nike Member of the Year) and she learned that women could create very special relationships. "Nike gave me the stepping stone to become a BPW member," said Malina. "I grew up knowing that one day it would be my turn. With our push for members, we need teens that automatically believe this is their next step in life."

Take up that trumpet and start leading the way. You will be glad you did!

Nike & Samothrace Clubs

Q. Is there an information sheet about starting a Nike? What is a Samothrace Club? I have been a member for 30 years but do not remember hearing about that before. Is it new? We have a College and a NW Technical College in Bemidji and two years ago I tried to start an evening group at the College, unsuccessfully; but perhaps info about a Nike group would work better than what I did then.

A. A Nike club is a BPW organization sponsored in a high school. A Samothrace club is an organization sponsored in a college. Nike and Samothrace clubs are described in the Membership Manual, Section 3. This can be downloaded from the BPW/USA website.

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