 **AAUW MO 2025-2026**

Approved at MO State Board Mtg 7-19-25

**Star Award Program Requirements/Branch Action Planning Tool**

 **Mission: Advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, advocacy and education.**

This mission-based document is a combination of the National 5-Star Award Plan (items 1-5) and the Missouri Star Award/Branch Action Plan. Use it to plan your AAUW year and track your progress. Place a check mark in the YES or NO column for every item; for YES items, provide a brief explanation. Check all that apply - - all successes, large or small, are important in achieving AAUW’s mission.

**Deadline for turning in this form is April 1, 2026**. Consider all branch activities between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026 for this form unless specified otherwise. The AAUW Fund information is on a January-December basis.

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* 1. **AAUW National Goals check all that apply YES NO Explanation**

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| **1. ADVANCEMENT (3 required for a star for National\*) (2 required for a star for Missouri\*\*)** |  |  |  |
| A) Raise $30 per member in FY26 towards the Greatest Needs Fund.  |  |  |  |
| B) Increase contributions to the Greatest Needs Fund by 15% from the last fiscal year. |  |  |  |
| C) Retain at least 80% of branch membership. |  |  |  |
| D) Increase the number of individual donors compared to the previous fiscal year. |  |  |  |
| E) Make a branch contribution to the Defend Higher Education **or** Public Policy Funds.  |  |  |  |
| F) Recruit at least one Legacy Circle member from your branch in FY26.  |  |  |  |

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| **2. Public Policy & Advocacy (3 required for a star\*)** |  |  |  |
| A) Appoint a branch public policy chair for FY26.  |  |  |  |
| B) Conduct a meeting with an elected official regarding an AAUW public policy position. This could include local, state, or federal officials. |  |  |  |
| C) Participate in a state lobby day.  |  |  |  |
| D) Hold a program on a policy topic related to public policy principles and priorities (this also counts towards a Programs Star).  |  |  |  |
| E) Conduct a voter registration or voter education event. |  |  |  |
| F) Organize a group action—such as letter-writing, attending a school board meeting, hosting a town hall—aligned with AAUW Action Network calls to action.  |  |  |  |

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| **4. Programming (4 required for a star\*)** |  |  |  |
| A) Hold at least 4 programs that align with AAUW’s strategic plan. (Submit list of all branch programs) |  |  |  |

* 1. **AAUW National Goals** check all that apply **YES NO Explanation**

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| **3. Governance & Sustainability (3 required for a star\*)** |  |  |  |
| A) Branch board creates or annually reviews a succession plan to ensure future leadership is identified.  |  |  |  |
| B) Branch board develops and implements a plan to participate in the Five Star Program.  |  |  |  |
| C) Branch board develops or updates their strategic plan to align with the AAUW national strategic plan.  |  |  |  |
| D) Appoint a Diversity Officer to lead branch diversity and inclusion planning or formalize diversity and inclusion programming in another branch position, such as Programs VP.  |  |  |  |
| E) Hold at least one branch program focused on justice, equity, diversity, or inclusion topics (this also counts towards a Programming star). |  |  |  |
| F) Complete an environmental scan of your branch, using the DEI toolkit resource. |  |  |  |
| G) Participate in the (National) Annual Branch Survey.  |  |  |  |

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| **5. Communications & External Relations (3 required for a star)\***  |  |  |  |
| A) Branch has a designated communications point person and follows AAUW National on platforms where it operates social media accounts. |  |  |  |
| B) Share 3-5 posts aligned with AAUW’s mission per quarter on branch social media accounts (can be shared/ reposted from AAUW National accounts).  |  |  |  |
| C) Include information from AAUW National in branch newsletters at least quarterly from such sources as Mission & Action emails.  |  |  |  |
| D) Ensure all branch leaders subscribe to AAUW emails and share the email re-subscribe link with members quarterly in member communications.  |  |  |  |
| E) Twice a year, assess national website and include updated information on branch website (linking to new strategic plan page, sharing latest content updates, sharing latest membership information).  |  |  |  |

 **2025-2026 AAUW Missouri Goals**

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| **6. Leadership and Branch Management (6 required for a star)** |  |  |  |
| A) Attended AAUW MO State Zoom Meeting on May 3, 2025. (Official list of branch attendees provided; minimum one member per branch.) |  |  |  |
| B) At least one branch member serves on the state board or a state committee. |  |  |  |
| C) President participates in state-led Zoom calls for branch presidents.  |  |  |  |
| D) Branch committee chairs participate in state-led Zoom calls for their committees. |  |  |  |
| E) Seek expertise and experience of State Board members, have a state board/committee member speak at a branch meeting on their topic, in person or virtually, and/or request a state-created presentation for a program. |  |  |  |
| (F) Submit 2025-26 branch officer information with National and AAUW MO by deadline, June 30, 2025. |  |  |  |
| (G) Publish a branch directory/membership list (physical or electronic) and distribute to members.  |  |  |  |
| (H) Send branch newsletters, directory/yearbook, and other branch historical documents to AAUW State Historian for archives. |  |  |  |
| (I) Ensure meetings are handicapped accessible. |  |  |  |
| (J) Offer branch programs/meetings allowing for in-person and/or virtual (Zoom) sessions. |  |  |  |

 **2025-2026 AAUW Missouri Goals** check all that apply **YES NO Explanation**

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| **7. Branch Growth (3 required for a star)** |  |  |  |
| A) Gain new members in 2025-26 by participation in National AAUW membership program ‘Shape the Future.’  |  |  |  |
| B) Create/hold a “member orientation” for new/continuing members. May utilize state leaders and/or state tools for assistance. |  |  |  |
| C) Collaborate with another branch or organization to co-sponsor an activity/event that focuses on recruiting potential new members.  |  |  |  |
| D) Promote participation in National 2-Minute Activist to members and potential members through newsletters, announcements at meetings, social media posts, email notifications and other media. |  |  |  |
| E) Invite potential members to attend local board meetings - - library, city council, county, state, school board - - with branch members to learn and advocate by publicizing meetings at AAUW branch meetings, in newsletters, via social media posts and email notifications.  |  |  |  |

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| **8. Education and Member Enrichment (3 required for a star)** |  |  |  |
| A) Participate in/attend a National AAUW webinar, town hall or other National online presentation.  |  |  |  |
| B) Access National websites, toolkits, webinars, reports or other materials to enrich branch learning opportunities. |  |  |  |
| C) Utilize *Missouri in Motion* newsletter and *AAUW Membership Matters* in educating branch members about State and National AAUW issues and actions by forwarding the link to all members. |  |  |  |
| D) Communicate with all branch members at least monthly. |  |  |  |
| E) Incorporate mission-based interest groups and/or action projects to engage members and prospective members. (Examples: book groups, ‘buddy’ programs, mentorships, branch leadership, women’s marches, or other activities.) |  |  |  |

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| **9. C/U Partners and STEM (5 required for a star, including two from C/U and two from STEM)** |  |  |  |
| A) Appoint/maintain a branch C/U (College/University) chair, communicate with State C/U chair and participate in State C/U committee work. |  |  |  |
| B) Maintain or initiate a relationship with a C/U Partner college or university or actively recruit a C/U Partner. |  |  |  |
| C) Participate in an event on a college campus with an information table that also features student member recruitment.  |  |  |  |
| D) Support NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) by recruiting students who attend, and/or supporting scholarships for attendees. |  |  |  |
| E) Recognize re-entry college students furthering their education. |  |  |  |
| F) Appoint/maintain a branch STEM chair and communicate with State STEM chair and participate in State committee. |  |  |  |
| G) Recognize girls or women studying and/or involved in STEM activities. |  |  |  |
| H) Engage in a project(s) related to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math).  |  |  |  |
| I) Publish in newsletter, website, or post on social media account(s) at least 1 each, articles on higher education issues [Title IX, student debt] and STEM taken from State or National AAUW information.  |  |  |  |

 **2025-26 AAUW Missouri Goals** check all that apply **YES NO Explanation**

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| **10. AAUW and Branch Visibility (4 required for a star)** |  |  |  |
| A) Focus on community visibility by publishing branch events, programs, and projects in local media (TV, radio, newspaper) and/or Facebook or other social media. |  |  |  |
| B) Complete and submit by the deadline the National Branch Impact Survey highlighting your branch activities. (e-form sent by National) |  |  |  |
| C) Increase branch visibility and promote the mission of AAUW by implementing GOTV/voting activities, staffing a table at an event, making a presentation, putting up posters, distributing fliers or bookmarks, giving awards/recognitions locally, or utilizing other ways to increase community awareness.  |  |  |  |
| D) Support leadership training for middle- and high-school girls through Madam President Camp, Girls State and other opportunities. |  |  |  |
| E) Submit at least one article or photo with a caption to *Missouri in* *Motion* state newsletter (Leaves from the Branches section). |  |  |  |
| F) Maintain a branch website or social media page Facebook, Bluesky, and Instagram that links to National Website on AAUW issues: GOTV, STEM, DEI, Public Policy Priorities, College/University Partners, and provides information about joining the local AAUW branch. |  |  |  |
| G) Share the information in branch newsletter and social media when AAUW MO and National signs on as a Co-Sponsors of Town Halls, AAUW mission-based legislation, special events and programs. |  |  |  |

**Notes**

\* Items 1-5 fulfill requirements for AAUW National Five Star Award, as well as for the Missouri 10 Star Program.

\*\* July 2025 AAUW MO BOARD MEETING ADJUSTMENT: the Missouri STAR program will require only **2 items** from the Advancement segment on page 1.

**MO STAR Form due April 1, 2026**

(postmark or email date)

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**HELPFUL RESOURCES**

AAUW MO website: aauw-mo.aauw.net

AAUW National website: www.aauw.org

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