

Philadelphia Girl's Rowing Club

- Founded on May 4, 1938, the oldest active women's club of its kind in the United States
- Began because no other rowing club would allow women to join
- First women's rowing club was sent outside the US to compete, when they went to Vichy, France

Primary Sources

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16 photoprints, portrays activities of members of the Philadelphia Girls' Rowing Club. Highlights team racing on the Schuylkill River, girls posed with oars, and related images.

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Philadelphia Girl's Rowing Club, 1938-2011

The Philadelphia Girls' Rowing Club (PGRC) was founded in 1938 by seventeen women. Its purpose is "to promote, stimulate, and support among women an interest in amateur rowing and other forms of athletics which are supplementary to this support." The PGRC is a self-governing, private club that is open to women and girls 15 years of age or older. It owns a boathouse on the Schuylkill River and is a member of the Schuylkill Navy, the association of all the rowing clubs of Boathouse Row. The PGRC hosts the Bill Braxton Memorial Regatta each November, is home to the Agnes Irwin Day School for Girls rowing program, and conducts a number of activities throughout the year. The collection documents the club's activities from its founding until close to the present. It includes constitutions and bylaws, meeting minutes and notes, correspondence, financial records, membership and dues records, boat logs, scrapbooks, photographs, property records, engineers' reports, architectural drawings, grant applications, newsletters, event programs, books, clippings, CDs/DVDs, artifacts, and other items. There is some documentation of other rowing organizations, especially the National Women's Rowing Association.

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