Chapter 1: SGI-USA Membership

Companions of Kosen-rufu From Time Without Beginning — Encouragement From SGI President Ikeda

We are family not only in this lifetime. Rather, we have been brothers and sisters from time without beginning. To view our relationship only in terms of this single lifetime is extremely shallow; it is to assume the view of pre-Lotus Sutra teachings and the theoretical teaching of the Lotus Sutra, both of which held that Shakyamuni attained enlightenment for the first time in India.

To see our relationship as that of companions spanning the three existences of past, present and future is to accept the point of view of time without beginning that is expounded in the essential teaching of the Lotus Sutra. In other words, together we are carrying out an ongoing struggle, from now into the future, to advance kosen-rufu, to promote peace and culture for the sake of humanity.

I would like you to build an enviable, endearing SGI-USA family, of which those around you will say: “Those people seem truly happy. How warm the light from the window of that SGI-USA house looks!” Steadily infusing society with smiling faces and hope, please construct, with the Mystic Law as your foundation, an eternal family of peace and a happy and beautiful America.

(My Dear Friends in America, third edition, p. 81)

Becoming an SGI-USA Member

By becoming a member of the SGI-USA, an individual agrees to sincerely practice Nichiren Buddhism; follow the guidance of the Soka Gakkai International; and observe the rules and regulations established by the SGI-USA. In addition, members are expected to behave in a responsible and respectful manner toward one another. Becoming an SGI-USA member is a privilege, not a right (http://www.sgi-usa.org/memberresources/leaders/sgiusa_charter.php).

The primary way to become a member of the SGI-USA is to receive the Gohonzon. A person receiving the Gohonzon (Standard or Portable) after fulfilling the guidelines becomes a member of the SGI-USA. There are three other ways to become a member:

◆ Family members (children, spouse, domestic partner, etc.) who live in the household of the person receiving the Gohonzon may choose to become members of the SGI-USA at the same time as the individual receiving the Gohonzon by receiving a Member’s Certificate.
◆ Family members who live in the household of an existing member with the Gohonzon and who have not yet officially joined the SGI-USA may do so if they desire by receiving a Member’s Certificate. Any person under eighteen years of age must get the written consent of their parent or guardian.
◆ A member with the Gohonzon who was not on any district’s membership list (Membership Information Card) agrees to be considered an SGI-USA member. [Please Note: If the returning member’s Gohonzon is not the Nichikan Gohonzon of the SGI, then exchanging it for the Nichikan Gohonzon will be required.]
Guidelines To Receive the Gohonzon for New Members

All new members should receive the Standard Okatagi Gohonzon to be enshrined in their private residence as their first Gohonzon.

To receive a Gohonzon and become a member, all applicants must fulfill the following guidelines (see below), complete an Application To Receive the Gohonzon For New Members Only and make the appropriate payment of $20 for the Gohonzon processing fee.

SGI President Ikeda states: “It is important that we offer prayers with great confidence. The powers of the Buddha and the Law are activated in direct proportion to the strength of our faith and practice. Strong faith is like a high voltage—it turns on a brilliant light in our lives” (Learning From the Gosho, p. 90).

Guidelines

1. Has attended at least two meetings, which should not take place consecutively on the same day, and one of which must be a district-level, four-divisional discussion or study meeting.

   For new members with no personal connection to the SGI (i.e., connected with SGI by “walking in” to an SGI-USA facility or through online search or social media platforms):
   a. Has attended at least three meetings, two of which must be district-level, four-divisional discussion meetings.
   b. Barring exceptions due to geography, discussion meetings attended should be sponsored by the same district where the new member will join after the Gohonzon conferral (see Guideline #3).

2. Wants to practice Soka Gakkai Nichiren Buddhism, chants Nam-myoho-renge-kyo and is learning gongyo.

3. Belongs to a local SGI-USA district. Barring exceptions due to geography, the district where the new member will belong must be the district whose discussion meetings the new member attended to fulfill Guideline #1 above.

4. Receive positive responses to the following:
   a. Does your living space provide enough privacy and room for you to enshrine the Gohonzon?
   b. Are you living with anyone who objects to your practice?
   c. Will you enshrine the Gohonzon within one week of receiving it?
   d. Do you agree to have SGI-USA leaders come to your home to enshrine your Gohonzon and to visit you regularly to support you in faith?

5. Subscribes to SGI-USA publications (World Tribune/Living Buddhism).

6. Obtains written consent from parent or legal guardian if the applicant is under the age of eighteen.

7. All new members should complete the Gohonzon application and submit the appropriate payment of either $20 for just the Gohonzon processing fee (if they are already subscribing to SGI-USA publications), or $50 for both the Gohonzon processing fee and the $30 one-year subscription to the World Tribune/Living Buddhism.

8. Non-U.S. residents wishing to receive the Gohonzon must:
   a. have lived in the United States for at least six months prior to conferral; and
   b. have plans to live in the United States for at least six months after the Gohonzon conferral.

9. Contributions Guideline for New Members:
   a. New members joining the SGI-USA after January 1, 2019, will not be permitted to contribute during the first year (12 months) of their practice.
   2. In addition, before being asked to contribute for the first time, the new member must be interviewed by a chapter or region level leader who will share the spirit of making contributions as encapsulated in this passage from SGI President Ikeda in The New Human Revolution:

   “Donations to support organizational activities represent offerings for the advancement of kosen-rufu. Faced with members’ growing insistence that they be allowed to help finance the organization, Toda sensed that the time had finally come to open the door to such a development... Financial contributions to the Soka Gakkai were not the same as donations to other organizations, because it was essential that offerings for kosen-rufu be based on faith. As long as the contributors possessed such sincere and ardent faith, they would not fail to receive immeasurable benefit...”


Waiting Period

There is no additional waiting period required before an individual receives the Gohonzon and becomes an SGI-USA member as long as he or she fulfills the above guidelines of receiving the Gohonzon. The appropriate timing should be determined based on the individual’s completion of the guidelines listed above and discussion between the sponsor, new member and district level leaders.
Application, Payment and Subscriptions to SGI-USA Publications

All new members should complete the application and submit the appropriate payment of either $20 for just the Gohonzon processing fee (if they are already subscribing), or $50 for both the processing fee and the $30 one-year subscription to the World Tribune/Living Buddhism (see FAQ #5, p. 15).

Verification that a new member is already subscribing can be confirmed by filling in the Membership ID Number on the Gohonzon application or attaching a copy of the e-mail receipt or check payment (see FAQ #21, p. 17).

Online Application for New Members

Link to SGI-USA Membership Portal to apply to receive the Gohonzon: https://portal.sgi-usa.org/portal

Please see page 21, Question #27, for more details.

Purpose: This will allow members to use a debit or credit card to complete the application process. It also allows them to sign up for auto-renewal of the publications. These new members will be entered automatically in the statistics system.

Requirements for Online Process: New members who have met all the guidelines to receive the Gohonzon, are eighteen years or older, have a valid email address, access to the Internet and are paying by debit or credit card at the time of conferral will be able to use the online application.

Special Circumstance for Receiving the Portable Omamori Gohonzon for New Members

- ONLY Active Duty Military Personnel who are being deployed and those who are living in barracks or shared military housing situations as well as service academy cadets and midshipmen can receive the Portable Gohonzon as a new member. There are no exceptions to this guideline.

For the Portable Gohonzon, a region leader’s signature is required—any leader on the region team may sign the application in consensus with the region four-divisional team.

Use and Care of the Portable Gohonzon

For Members With Both the Portable and the Standard Gohonzon

In general, the daily practice of morning and evening gongyo in one’s home should be conducted in front of the Gohonzon, and not the Portable Gohonzon. Unless needed for travel, the Portable Gohonzon should be closed and kept safely in an altar.

For Members With the Portable Gohonzon Only

If the Portable Gohonzon is the only Gohonzon that has been received, it should be enshrined in an appropriate portable altar during the daily practice of morning and evening gongyo, and while chanting. When not chanting, the Portable Gohonzon should be stored in a safe place.

Traveling With the Portable Gohonzon

While traveling, the Portable Gohonzon should be kept safely on your person and not in your luggage. When doing gongyo and chanting, enshrine the Portable Gohonzon in an appropriate portable altar. If an altar is not available, set up the Portable Gohonzon in a stable location and at an appropriate height. When not chanting, the Portable Gohonzon should once again be kept safely on your person or stored in a safe place. Do not leave it in your hotel room unless it is in a lockable safe either in the room or at the hotel front desk.

If you have any questions concerning the care of the Portable Gohonzon, please discuss any concerns with your local leaders.

Gohonzon Conferral Ceremonies for New Members

The new member must personally receive the Gohonzon by attending the conferral ceremony, which may take place at any appropriate meeting—district discussion meetings, study meetings or larger gatherings such as Kosen-rufu Gongyo Meetings. The Gohonzon should not be conferred in such settings as outdoor venues (parks, beaches, etc.), restaurants or similar places where it may be difficult to physically protect the Gohonzon, or overly casual.

The Gohonzon should be conferred by any region-through national-level line leader or a leader specifically designated by the region.

Only when an individual is unable to attend a ceremony due to a serious health condition, protracted illness or disability, can a special conferral be conducted in his or her home.

The conferral of the Gohonzon should be done in a dignified manner, befitting its value and importance. Please
consider the following suggestions for the ceremony:

1. Read (brief portion) the New Member’s Certificate. (Included with the Welcome to the SGI Pamphlet.)
2. Present the Gohonzon to the new member with care and consideration.
3. Share an appropriate quote from *The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin* or from SGI President Ikeda.
4. Other personal expressions, such as presenting flowers or taking a photo are optional.

**Guidelines To Receive the Gohonzon for Current Members**

**Standard Okatagi**
A current SGI-USA member may apply to receive the **Standard Okatagi** Gohonzon if the individual is:
- establishing a separate household OR
- exchanging for another Standard Gohonzon (i.e., Standard Nikken Gohonzon) OR
- replacing a lost or damaged Gohonzon (see Replacement Policy for Lost or Damaged Gohonzon below).

**Portable Omamori**
A current SGI-USA member may apply to receive the **Portable Omamori** Gohonzon if the individual has practiced for at least three months and is:
- traveling frequently.
- replacing a lost or damaged Portable Gohonzon (see Replacement Policy for Lost or Damaged Gohonzon below).
- students living on campus or in a dormitory.

**Replacement Policy for a Lost, Damaged, or Returned Gohonzon**
Region leaders are responsible for reviewing all reported cases of lost or damaged Gohonzon, clarifying the household situation and determining which of the following two categories apply:

**Accidental Loss or Damage**
Any Gohonzon that is accidentally lost or damaged for reasons outside the control of a member (for example, burglary, fire, flood, etc.) after a minimum six-month review period and with the appropriate donation.

**Negligence or Personal Involvement in the Loss, Damage, or Return of Gohonzon**
In cases where the Gohonzon is lost or damaged as a result of the negligence or personal involvement of a member (for example, a member mishandles the Gohonzon causing damage, a family member damages or discards the Gohonzon, the Gohonzon is lost during a move, etc., or in the case of a member deciding not to practice and returning their Gohonzon), a minimum six-month review period must be completed before the Gohonzon may be replaced.

The minimum review period of six months should begin from the date the loss of or damage to the Gohonzon is reported. During this period, the member may not receive a replacement Gohonzon and should receive appropriate guidance about how to properly care for the Gohonzon. This review period may be extended at the discretion of the region leaders. After the review period is completed, the member may receive a replacement Gohonzon with the standard donation.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Question #1: Is there a required waiting period before an individual can receive the Gohonzon and become an SGI-USA member?**

There is no specific waiting period required before an individual receives the Gohonzon and becomes an SGI-USA member, as long as the guidelines are fulfilled.

**Question #2: A new member will be receiving the Gohonzon and his or her family members will also be joining the SGI-USA. What procedures should be followed?**

Each family member joining should attend the Gohonzon conferral ceremony, complete a Membership Information Card and receive a New Member’s Certificate. Leaders should ensure that a Membership Information Card is completed for each family member who is joining. The additional family members are not expected to make a contribution for the Gohonzon processing fee, and only the person receiving the Gohonzon is eligible for the One-Year Introductory Subscription Rate for the SGI-USA publications. These cards should also be kept together with the Membership Information Cards in the new member's district.

**Question #3: Is it OK to confer the Gohonzon to those people who are incarcerated?**

It is SGI-USA policy not to confer the Gohonzon to
people who are incarcerated. This is to protect the Gohonzon amidst living arrangements that can be very changeable, and sometimes very insecure. In addition, it is not physically possible for an incarcerated person to attend meetings or connect with a local district, which is a requirement for receiving the Gohonzon. Also, the conferee may become a target to the extent that the Gohonzon is perceived as having monetary value.

In lieu of receiving the Gohonzon in such circumstances, potential sponsors are encouraged to support their incarcerated friend or family member in chanting daimoku, and to deepen their practice and understanding by subscribing to the publications.

Consideration to receive a Gohonzon upon release should be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

**Question #4: What is the key to taking care of new members?**

The Soka Gakkai tradition is that the sponsor, in conjunction with senior leaders, supports the new members in their practice until they can stand on their own.

It is best for a new member to practice with his or her sponsor in the sponsor’s home district for several months. If this is not possible, then the sponsor should accompany the new member to the district where he/she will be practicing for at least the first three months, to help the new member get accommodated and stay connected.

**Question #5: Why should new members subscribe to SGI-USA publications?**

Nichiren Daishonin writes: “Exert yourself in the two ways of practice and study. Without practice and study, there can be no Buddhism” (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 386). Since study is an essential component of a correct practice, this guideline will enable new members to become familiar with the important role that publications play in enhancing their practice. In an effort to support Buddhist learning, the SGI-USA offers a One-Year Introductory Subscription Rate.

**Question #6: Please explain the payment information section on the application?**

As is stated on the Gohonzon application, there is a $20 fee for processing Gohonzon applications. It is not a purchase; the Gohonzon is being entrusted to the member. This fee is not a tax-deductible contribution, and should not be referred to as such. The additional $30 that new members pay to receive a one-year subscription before or at the time of conferral is payment for receipt of the World Tribune/Living Buddhism, and this amount is also not a tax-deductible contribution. New members are encouraged to subscribe to the publications prior to receiving the Gohonzon. If they have already subscribed, please check the appropriate box on the application and supply the Membership ID Number, which will be listed on the mailing label of their publications. If they have not yet subscribed, they must pay the $30 for their subscription. This would make the total $50, which may be paid by either cash or check/money order payable to the SGI-USA.

**Question #7: Who signs the Gohonzon application?**

The applicant should sign in the space provided on the application. In addition, for the Standard Gohonzon, one signature is required to confirm that all the guidelines have been met. This section must be signed by a district-level men’s or women’s leader or any chapter-level leader. For the Portable Gohonzon, a region leader’s signature is required—any leader on the region team may sign the application in consensus with the region four-divisional team.

**Question #8: A new member has fulfilled all but one of the guidelines to receive the Gohonzon. Is it OK to make an exception and confer the Gohonzon to this new member?**

No. All guidelines need to be met before conferring the Gohonzon. The sponsor and leaders of the organization that will be welcoming the new member should work together to support him or her to fulfill all the guidelines.

**Question #9: What happens to the Membership Information Card that is completed with the application?**

The Membership Information Card should be kept in the new member's district with the rest of the district’s Membership Information Cards. Leaders should assist all family members joining at the same time to complete their own Membership Information Card that also needs to be kept at the district.
Question #10: A member’s child is establishing a separate household and would like to receive the Gohonzon. Should they fill out the Application to Receive the Gohonzon—for New Members Only?

No. Any member who currently has a Membership Information Card on file in a district and is establishing a separate household is not considered a new member. They should use the Application to Receive the Gohonzon—for Current SGI-USA Members. Please DO NOT use the Application To Receive the Gohonzon—For New Members.

Question #11: A member’s family or friend visiting from another country has attended several meetings and would like to receive the Gohonzon before returning to their home country. Are they able to receive the Gohonzon in America?

No. They should apply through the SGI organization in their home country. Only those who have been living officially in the United States for more than six months, will remain in the United States for at least six additional months, and meet all the guidelines may be considered eligible to receive the Gohonzon.

Question #12: What is the difference between the Membership Information Card and Membership ID Card?

The Membership Information Card is completed with the member’s information, along with the Application To Receive the Gohonzon—for New Members Only. Additional cards will be available for family members joining at the same time. The Membership ID Card is issued at the time the member’s publications subscription information is entered into the subscriptions database. The Membership ID Card will be mailed directly by the Member Services Department to the member’s mailing address and kept by the member. Upon receipt, the member may register the number based on the instructions provided with the Membership ID Card to access and manage their account in the SGI-USA Membership Portal.

The SGI-USA Membership Portal makes it fast and easy to go online and:

- manage your subscriptions to SGI-USA publications;
- make a contribution or see your historical contribution records;
- see your SGI-USA Study Exam information;
- change your address;
- apply for Florida Nature and Culture Center (FNCC) conferences.

Question #13: What is the Membership ID Number

The Membership ID Number can be found above the subscriber’s name and address on any SGI-USA publication. It is alphanumeric, containing five letters and four numbers, such as SOKSU0001. This Membership ID Number will allow the subscriber to access and manage their account online, allowing them to view their contributions, subscriptions, study exam status and apply for FNCC conferences. A Membership ID Card looks like this:

For a new member or guest, a Membership ID Card will be mailed directly by the Member Services Department to the subscriber’s mailing address upon receipt of their subscription order.

If the subscriber has mailed in the One-Year Guest Rate Subscription Order Envelope or turned in their Application To Receive the Gohonzon—For New Members Only (with the publication order form with the One-Year Introductory Subscription Rate at the bottom) at least ten business days earlier and not yet received their publications and/or their Membership ID Number and/or Card, please have them contact the Member Services Department at (855) 744-2030, Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm Pacific Time, or by email at subs@sgi-usa.org

Question #14: I have a guest who would like to subscribe. Which form do I use?

There are two ways for guests to subscribe. If they
Before the guest receives the Gohonzon, please call the SGI-USA Member Services Department at (855) 744-2030, Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm, Pacific Time to get the Membership ID Number or attach a copy of the online receipt or check payment.

**Question #20:** A guest will be receiving the Gohonzon along with other family members. Will they each receive the One-Year Introductory Subscription Rate?

Only the main applicant listed on the Gohonzon application is eligible for the One-Year Introductory Subscription Rate.

**Question #21:** Where can the Membership ID Number be found?

The Membership ID Number can be found above the subscriber’s name and address on any SGI-USA publication. It is alphanumeric, containing five letters and four numbers, such as SOKSU0001. If the subscriber has mailed in the One-Year Guest Rate Subscription Order Envelope or turned in their Application To Receive the Gohonzon—for New Members Only (with the publication order form with the One-Year Introductory Subscription Rate at the bottom) at least ten business days earlier and not yet received their publications, they may obtain their Membership ID Number by contacting the SGI-USA Member Services Department at (855) 744-2030, Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm Pacific Time, or by email at subs@sgi-usa.org.

**Question #22:** A member is establishing a new household (such as moving away to college) and receiving the Gohonzon. Is that member eligible to receive the introductory rate?

Only new members joining the SGI-USA for the first time are eligible for the One-Year Introductory Subscription Rate.

**Question #23:** When receiving the Portable Gohonzon as a second Gohonzon, is a member eligible to get the One-Year Introductory Subscription Rate?

No. Only new members joining the SGI-USA for the first time are eligible for the One-Year Introductory Subscription Rate.

**Question #24:** How long does it take to receive the first issue of the *World Tribune/Living Buddhism*?
Please allow two to four weeks. If after four weeks, no publications have been received, please contact the SGI-USA Member Services Department at (855) 744-2030, Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm Pacific Time, or via email at subs@sgi-usa.org

Please Note: Upon joining, new members will receive the newly published complimentary edition An Introduction to Buddhism—For New Members, Second Edition.

Question #25: Can current members who are students moving into a dormitory and establishing a separate household receive the Portable Gohonzon as their first Gohonzon?

Yes. Those who are currently members of the SGI-USA and are moving into a university or college campus dormitory may apply for the Portable (Omamori) Gohonzon by completing the Application To Receive the Gohonzon for Current Members.

Question #26: How is membership terminated?

There are two types of termination: (1) voluntary and (2) involuntary. Please see the SGI-USA Charter, Chapter 10 (http://www.sgi-usa.org/memberresources/leaders/sgiusa_charter.php) for details regarding voluntary and involuntary termination of membership.

Question #27: What are the purpose, requirements, and process of the online Gohonzon application?

The main purpose of this online Gohonzon application is to allow for prospective members to apply for the Gohonzon and pay the processing fee with a debit or credit card. As such, here are the requirements:

- Have access to the Internet
- Have a valid email address
- Applicant must be eighteen years or older
- Pay by credit/debit card ONLY (Visa, Mastercard or Discover)
- Apply as a new member
- Apply for a standard Okatagi Gohonzon ONLY
- Sponsor or leader must assist applicant in filling out the online Gohonzon application
- District men's and women's leaders and chapter four-divisional leaders must have valid email addresses in their member portal accounts for approval purposes

There are ten basic steps:

1. Applicant logs into the SGI-USA Membership Portal or creates a new Membership ID Number
2. Applicant completes Membership ID Number registration
4. Applicant fills out all required fields under “Application Information”
5. Applicant adds additional family members joining, if applicable
6. Applicant selects publications package, if applicable
7. Applicant reviews order amount, submits payment information and clicks “Apply”
8. Email soliciting approval of applicant is sent to district men's and women's leaders and four-divisional chapter leaders
9. Congratulatory email with instructions is sent to applicant along with payment receipt
10. Email is sent to all four-divisional district leaders notifying them that a new member has joined their district
Forms

Application To Receive the Gohonzon—Current SGI-USA Members (please use only the ORIGINAL GOHONZON form—please see SAMPLE below).

Application To Receive the Gohonzon—For New Members Only (please use only the ORIGINAL GOHONZON form—please see SAMPLE below).

Click here to access the fillable pdf:
http://www.sgi-usa.org/memberresources/leaders/forms.php

Click here to access the fillable pdf:
http://www.sgi-usa.org/memberresources/leaders/forms.php
Membership Information Card

First and Last Name
Street Address
City
Date of Birth: Month Day Year
E-mail Address

Please check one: ☐ Men’s (MD)
☐ Young Men’s (YMD) (Ages: 18-35)
☐ Young Men’s Jr. High/High School (Ages: 12-17)

☐ Women’s (WD)
☐ Young Women’s (YWD) (Ages: 18-35)
☐ Young Women’s Jr. High/High School (Ages: 12-17)

Sponsor’s Name (Print First and Last Name)                          Division                          Phone Number

Date of Conferral Ceremony:

Month Day Year

District
Chapter
Region
Membership ID# ☐

FAMILY MEMBERS ALSO JOINING WITH APPLICANT (Please make a separate membership card(s) for family members joining)

First and Last Name

MD  WD  YMD  YWD  YMD JHHS  YWD JHHS  ESD/PRE-ESD

Please circle one: ☐

Relationship (Membership Card completed (check box))

SGI-USA respects the privacy of your personal information. This information is collected for internal organizational use only and will not be disclosed to third parties outside of the SGI-USA organization.

Additional Information

Subscriptions ☐ Yes ☐ No
Auto-Renewal ☐ Yes ☐ No
Sustaining Contributions ☐ Yes ☐ No
FNCC ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please check the type of Gohonzon you have:
☐ Standard (Okatagi) ☐ Portable (Omamori)

STUDY EXAMS COMPLETED

Level                     Pass   Year
Introductory              ☐      
Essentials 1               ☐      
Essentials 2               ☐      
Essentials 3               ☐      
Ikeda Wisdom Academy 1    ☐      
Ikeda Wisdom Academy 2    ☐      

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION (Please print clearly)

Name
Primary Phone
E-mail Address

Relationship
New Member’s Certificate (please use only the ORIGINAL
NEW MEMBER'S CERTIFICATE — please see SAMPLE below)
SGI-USA Parent/Guardian Consent Form for a Minor To Receive the Gohonzon

The signed original consent form must accompany the Application To Receive the Gohonzon or Request for New Member’s Certificate.

Information About the Minor:

First Name: _____________________  Last Name: ____________________   Middle Initial: ______

Street Address of the Minor: ____________________________________________________________

City: ______________________________   State: _________________   Zip Code: _______________

Date of Birth: ______________________________

Parent/Guardian Information:

First Name: _____________________  Last Name: ____________________   Middle Initial: ______

Relationship to the Minor: _____________________________

Telephone Number: ___________________________________

I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of the minor listed above, and I give my consent for him/her to become a Nichiren Buddhist as a member of the Soka Gakkai International-USA (SGI-USA). I understand that he/she will be receiving the Gohonzon (object of devotion in the practice of Nichiren Buddhism) and enshrining it in my home. I have discussed his/her membership with a local SGI-USA leader and fully support his/her practice.

Signature of the Parent/Guardian: ___________________________   Date: _______________