



ORGANIZATION MEMO

DATE: MARCH 13, 2018

MEMO: 2018-ORG-015

DISTRIBUTE TO: District through Territory Leaders and Zone/Territory Offices
FROM: SGI-USA Organization Center
SUBJECT: 2018 Lion District Information

SGI-USA is truly excited to announce a new “Lion District” initiative starting this year, as a way to focus on growth and victory towards the historic Lions of Justice festival this September. This initiative replaces the previous “Champion District” program.

The new Lion District initiative will introduce three criteria for Districts to challenge in 2018. The criteria are:

- 1. Two Youth, either Young Men or Young Women, to receive the Gohonzon and start practicing Buddhism with the SGI in 2018 (does not include Junior High and High School students)**
- 2. Have two Youth (again, does not include Junior High and High School students) maintaining responsibility as Unit Leaders**
- 3. Have a discussion meeting attendance of six Youth at least twice throughout 2018 (includes members of the Junior High and High School Divisions for this purpose).**

The rest of this memo highlights key information pertaining to the Lion District initiative in 2018.

I. Lion District Monthly Timeline

The SGI-USA Organization Center would like to inform you of the following monthly timeline regarding Districts that are designated “Lion Districts”:

Third Week of Each Month - Data Input/Verification

All data pertaining to the (3) criteria to be designated a “Lion District” must be entered in our statistics database and will be subsequently verified by all Territory MIS staff as well as the SGI-USA Organization Center *(All pertinent data must be entered by the third week; otherwise, there will be a one month delay for a “Lion District” to be designated).*

Fourth Week of Each Month - Notification/Award Shipment

A representative for each District will be notified by one of their respective Zone or Territory office staff or an appropriate leader once they are designated a “Lion District.” An award, certificate and message from General Director Adin Strauss for all verified “Lion Districts” will be shipped to the appropriate center or location where Kosen-rufu Gongyo meetings are being held at the beginning of the following month.

Kosen-rufu Gongyo Meetings – Acknowledgment

The SGI-USA would like to acknowledge all verified “Lion Districts” at Kosen-rufu Gongyo meetings.

Please see below for a specific 2018 Lion District Timeline:

Kosen-Rufu Gongyo Dates	Data Input Deadline	Verification Date	Notification	Award/Certificate Shipment
April	23-Mar	26-Mar	27-Mar	3-Apr
May	20-Apr	23-Apr	24-Apr	1-May
June	18-May	21-May	22-May	29-May
July	15-Jun	18-Jun	19-Jun	26-Jun
August	20-Jul	23-Jul	24-Jul	31-Jul
September	17-Aug	20-Aug	21-Aug	28-Aug
October	21-Sep	24-Sep	25-Sep	2-Oct
November	19-Oct	22-Oct	23-Oct	30-Oct
December	16-Nov	19-Nov	20-Nov	27-Nov
February (2019)	28-Dec	31-Dec	3-Jan	11-Jan

For any questions related to this timeline, please contact your Territory office below:

West Territory
 Beatrice Lopez
 LA Friendship Center
 Tel# (323) 692-2463
 Email blopez@sgi-usa.org

Central Territory
 Kimberly Herrmann
 Chicago Culture Center
 (312) 447-2229
kherrmann@sgi-usa.org

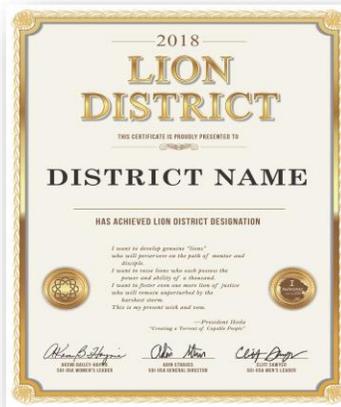
East Territory
 Lori Karp
 New York Culture Center
 (212) 727-7870
lkarp@sgi-usa.org

II. Lion District Checklist

As a tool to assist our hard-working leaders on the front lines, we have outlined the following checklist upon “Lion District” designation:

Shipment:

The following award and certificate along with a message of congratulations from General Director Strauss will be mailed prior to the Kosen-rufu Gongyo meeting:



Award Ceremony

The award ceremony should be held as part of a Kosen-rufu Gongyo meeting with representative District leaders in attendance. The District name will be announced in the *World Tribune*.

III. Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What are the criteria for becoming a Lion District?

- ✓ **Two Youth, either Young Men or Young Women, to receive the Gohonzon and start practicing Buddhism with the SGI in 2018 (does not include Junior High and High School students)**
- ✓ **Have two Youth (again, (does not include Junior High and High School students) maintaining responsibility as Unit Leaders**
- ✓ **Have a discussion meeting attendance of six Youth at least twice throughout 2018 (includes members of the Junior High and High School Divisions for this purpose).**

Q. Enable two Youth Division to receive the Gohonzon and start practicing SGI Nichiren Buddhism: What about those additional youth family members receiving new member certificates only?

A. This criteria refers only to new YMD/YWD receiving the Gohonzon

Q. How do we add Youth Division Unit leaders?

A. Unit leaders can be added by any District and Chapter leader via their SGI-USA Member Portal account. There is a button called "Unit Leaders" and if they click on that, leaders can enter the name of the Unit leader they wish to add. Once they do so, Unit leaders will be automatically captured in our statistics database.

Q. Six Youth to attend a Discussion meeting at least two times during the year: Does this include youth guests?

A. No. "Six Youth" in this case only refers to members. Guests are counted differently in our Discussion meeting attendance reports.

Q. How long does the "Lion District" designation last?

A. The "Lion District" designation lasts for the calendar year.

Q. How are "Lion Districts" reported?

A. Our statistics database generates reports pertaining to Gohonzon conferrals, leadership appointments, and attendance. Gohonzon conferrals are input by SGI-USA Zone office staff. Leadership appointments are added by leaders via their SGI-USA Member Portal accounts. Attendance is input either by District leaders via their Member Portal accounts or by Chapter Statistics Administrators via our statistics database. Our statistics database will be able to identify "Lion Districts" after the first reporting period, on March 15.