

DISTRIBUTE TO: District through Territory Leaders, Future Division and Parents Group Leaders, Zone and Territory Offices
FROM: SGI-USA Organization Center
SUBJECT: Future Division Initiatives in 2021

With the deepest appreciation for our wonderful line leaders as well as our Future Division and Parents Group leaders for their tireless efforts, and with our exciting new directional focus on raising members of the Future Division toward 2030 in mind, we would like to share the following important initiatives in 2021:

1. NEW JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION CURRICULUM

With the goal of deepening the faith and study of our Junior High and High School (JHHS) Division members toward 2030, the youth Future Division and line leaders have introduced a new JHHS Division curriculum for 2021. The JHHS Division study for January is included in this memo (p. 2). Going forward, this material, in tandem with the ongoing ESD curriculum, which includes a quote from *The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, will be in the monthly Future Division insert of the *World Tribune* and can be used as the study material for Soka Family Day activities.

2. NEW SOKA FAMILY DAY RHYTHM

Starting in February 2021, we will begin our united rhythm across the nation of hosting the Soka Family Day activity on the **second Sunday of each month** to provide an opportunity for parents, guardians, ESD & JHHS Members to receive faith encouragement as a family! With this new rhythm in mind we would like to emphasize the following points:

- ◇ In support of these activities no other organizational meetings should be scheduled at the same time.
- ◇ Breakouts by division are encouraged. These can be staggered or held at separate times on the second Sunday to accommodate each organization's needs or families with limited device access while we are hosting meetings via Zoom.

3. ADDING THE BIRTH YEAR OF FUTURE DIVISION MEMBERS

The SGI-USA online statistics system has been upgraded to include the year of birth for SGI-USA members. For Future Division members, this is very useful, as it will help leaders determine ESD and JHHS divisional changes and graduations so we can better support our Future Division members. While not mandatory for current members, if parents or legal guardians would like to add the year of birth for their Future Division-aged children, please contact your local SGI-USA Zone Office staff.

On behalf of the SGI-USA Future Division, we thank you again for your support of these new initiatives and of our precious Future Division members in 2021!

Sincerely,

The SGI-USA National Future Division & Parents Group Leaders
Ai Nishino, Michael Cornell, Kazuyo Nakagawa, Jason Lions, Alex Marcos, Kathy King, Ian Willoughby & Ian McIlraith

JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION MONTHLY CURRICULUM
JANUARY 2021: WINNING WITH A FIGHTING SPIRIT AND UNWAVERING DETERMINATION
(*Discussions on Youth*, Ch. 2, “Youth: A Time of Challenge”)

CONTINUE WITH A FIGHTING SPIRIT

“Happiness in life does not depend on how well things go in your youth. And no matter how many mistakes you make, you always have a second chance. ‘Be ambitious’ and keep striving towards the future. If you don’t do well in elementary school, try harder in junior high. If you don’t do well in junior high school, do your best in high school. And if you’re not happy with your achievements in high school, give it your all in university. If that’s not to your satisfaction, there’s still hope after graduation, as you challenge yourselves as active member of society. If you experience setbacks along the way, continue with a fighting spirit into your forties, fifties, sixties, and seventies.

“Even if you think you’re hopeless and incapable, I know you’re not. I have not the slightest doubt that each of you has a mission. Though others may disparage you, please know that I respect you, I believe in you. No matter what circumstances you now face, I have absolute confidence that a wonderful future awaits you.

“Each time you fall down, just get back up. If you can pick yourself up, you can move forward. You are young. Now is the time to challenge and construction. Now is the time to begin some endeavor.” (*Discussions on Youth*, p. 27)

QUESTION: What is one aspect of your life you would really like to challenge this year?

POLISH YOUR “INNER SWORD”

“Those who are determined to win in the end, no matter what, are strong.

“In the depths of our lives, we each possess a precious ‘jeweled sword’ that is uniquely our own. This mighty sword of the spirit pierces negative forces and defends justice. As long as we realize we possess this inner sword and polish it continuously for the sake of good, we will never be defeated. We will win without fail. Such is the wondrous sword we possess within.

“The jeweled sword is your own heart, your determination. Having strong faith and conviction in the Mystic Law is what’s known as the world of Buddhahood. If the sword of faith remains sheathed, it is useless in battling obstacles; if it is not polished, it will grow dull and weak. Those who neither unsheathe nor polish their inner sword lead fearful and timid lives. This magnificent sword is your own hearth, it is your character. Thus, to polish the sword within means to study, develop friendships and build a solid self.” (*Discussions on Youth*, p. 34)

QUESTION: What are some ways you can polish your own “jeweled sword”?