

DISTRIBUTE TO: District through Territory Leaders, Zone and Territory Offices
FROM: SGI-USA Organization Center
SUBJECT: Temporary Updates to Gohonzon Conferral Guidelines for New Members

We are very happy to announce that Gohonzon conferral opportunities will resume at SGI-USA centers selected to reopen. The first conferral opportunity will be the September Kosen-rufu Gongyo meeting and subsequent Kosen-rufu Gongyo meetings thereafter. Gohonzon conferrals will not take place at any other SGI-USA activity at this time. This is to ensure that each guest joining the SGI-USA is welcomed in a dignified manner with abundant support.

What are the new Gohonzon conferral guidelines?

To accommodate for those who have started practicing during the pandemic, we have temporarily modified the Gohonzon conferral guidelines. In addition to attending at least two district-level meetings on Zoom, a guest must attend two in-person meetings (attending a Kosen-rufu Gongyo meeting being held now will count toward this total) and meet all other guidelines ([see p. 2 for full guidelines](#)). This is to ensure that a guest is able to see the Gohonzon, chant and do gongyo with other members and experience an in-person SGI-USA activity.

If a guest has attended two in-person meetings prior to the pandemic, one of which being a district-level study or discussion meeting, they must also have attended at least two district-level activities on Zoom in the past six months to receive the Gohonzon. This is to ensure that the guest has maintained a connection to an SGI-USA district and the district is able to support their development in faith.

When can a guest receive the Gohonzon?

Guests will not be eligible to receive the Gohonzon at their first or second in-person meeting. Having met all other guidelines, the earliest a guest can receive the Gohonzon is at their third in-person meeting, which should not occur on the same day as the second meeting. Currently, in-person Kosen-rufu Gongyo meetings will be the only activities where Gohonzon conferrals are conducted.

Online Application Only

All Gohonzon applications and payment should be completed and approved online prior to the conferral day. Completed applications must be printed and brought to the center on the day of the conferral.

Enshrinement

The Gohonzon should be enshrined within one week of the conferral. All parties present at the enshrinement must wear a mask and be fully vaccinated. Please limit the number of members attending the enshrinement.

Current Guidelines	Change
<p>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.</p>	<p>Has attended two in-person meetings and two virtual district-level discussion or study meetings. The earliest a guest can receive the Gohonzon is at their third in-person meeting, which should not occur on the same day as the second meeting. (Temporary Change)</p>
<p>Wants to practice Soka Gakkai Nichiren Buddhism, chants Nam-myoho-renge-kyo and is learning gongyo</p>	<p>No Change</p>
<p>Belongs to an SGI-USA district</p>	<p>No Change</p>
<p>Enshrine the Gohonzon within one week of receiving and willing to have leaders visit on a regular basis to support in faith</p>	<p>No Change</p>
<p>Subscribe to SGI-USA publications (WT/LB)</p>	<p>No Change</p>
<p>Obtains written consent from parent or legal guardian if the applicant is under the age of 18</p>	<p>No Change</p>
<p>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 <i>World Tribune/Living Buddhism</i>.</p>	<p>No Change</p>
<p>Non-U.S. residents wishing to receive the Gohonzon must have lived in the U.S. for at least six months prior to conferral and have plans to stay in the U.S. for at least six months after the Gohonzon conferral</p>	<p>No Change</p>