



The Lions Journey

For Service, Growth and Leadership

The Importance of Mentoring

Mentoring comes in many forms in a Lions club. It is usually about bringing a new member into the club and making sure they receive a proper introduction to Lions and what it means to serve the community as a Lion. But it can also be an important tool in the retention of your new or existing Lion.

It can also mean making families welcome. It can mean making accommodations for disabled and elderly Lions. It can mean a thousand other things as well, but all of those things pertain to keeping good Lions in your club.

Who is this program for?

This program is for new Lions as well as not-so-new Lions. For the new Lion, it is a systematic way of attaining a full understanding of how they fit in to the full Lions Club. For the not-so-new Lion, it is a way of strengthening their commitment to the Lions motto "We Serve." For all members, it is a way of simply staying connected. Every club needs to keep their members close. The story below is the simple reason why:

THE MEMBER WHO NEVER CAME BACK

It amuses me now to think that your organization spends so much time looking for new members....when I was there all the time. Do you remember me? I'm the person who was asked to join. I paid my dues and then was asked to be a loyal and faithful member.

I'm the person who came to every meeting, but nobody paid any attention to me. I tried several times to be friendly, but everyone seemed to have their own friends to talk and sit with. I sat down among some unfamiliar faces several times, but they didn't pay much attention to me.

I hope somebody would ask me to join one of the committees or to participate and contribute my time...but no one did.

Finally, because of illness, I missed a meeting. The next month, no one asked me where I had been. I guess it didn't matter very much whether I was there or not. On the next meeting date, I decided to stay home and watch a good television program. When I attended the next meeting, no one asked me where I was the month before.

You might say that I'm a good person, a good worker and I love my community. You know who else I am? I'm the member who never came back.

- Anonymous

What is The Lions Journey?

The Lions Journey program is a method of making sure that our members stay connected with their Lions club, and to RECOGNIZE those members for participating in service, growth and leadership.

The Lions Journey program is set up to be done in three phases, so the new or not-so-new Lion member can grow in Lions and become fully involved in service, growth and leadership. Not every Lion will want to become involved in or complete all three phases, but the club should make every attempt to provide mentorship so that each member has a solid foundation in Lions.

Service, Growth and Leadership are the three parts of the program. The club Membership and/or Leadership Chairs will jointly have responsibility for this program, and clubs are encouraged to create a Mentorship Chair to administer the program within their club.

Service.

In this section, the new or not-so-new Lion will become involved in many aspects of the Lions club which he/she may or may not have been involved since becoming a Lion. Each Mentor will ensure that the following things have been accomplished by the new Lion.

- Participate in an Induction Ceremony
- Attend an Orientation Meeting
- Participate in a Service Project
- Participate in a Fundraiser
- Participate in a Club Social Event
- Attend a Club Board Meeting
- Visit Two Other Clubs/Events
- Attend a Zone or District Meeting

Growth.

In this section, the Lion will continue to grow and become involved in new things in his/her club. Each Mentor or Guiding Lion will ensure that the following things have been accomplished by the new Lion.

- Chair or Co-chair a Committee
 - Attend the Annual Club Planning Session
- Accomplish two of the following:*
- Attend a District Spring Conference or MD-19 Convention
 - Attend a Leadership Development course
 - Sponsor at Least one new Member

Leadership.

In this section, the Lion will become involved in advanced leadership opportunities in Lions.

- Hold a Senior Club Leadership Position
- Attend the Northwest Lions Leadership Institute
- Become a Mentor/Guiding Lion

Who can be a Mentor?

The accomplishment of each of these three sections relies on mentors. They are carefully selected by the club, and need not necessarily be the new Lions sponsor. Not everyone has the personality to be a guide or mentor, so mentors should be those who have a track record of accomplishment. Each Lion should have two mentors so that the absence of one or the other will not impede the Lions Journey of the new member.

The Checklist

The attached checklist shall be used as a guide for accomplishing the three areas of the Lions Journey. Clubs **may alter the checklist** to suit their individual club needs, but are encouraged to keep it in the spirit of Service, Growth and Leadership.

Recognition

Recognition is a key to the success of this program. EVERY Lion likes to have his/her accomplishments known to the club, zone and district. After accomplishing each phase of The Lions Journey, the club member shall be recognized at a regular club meeting with a certificate of accomplishment of each of the phases. Clubs may create a certificate of their choice, or use/modify the sample certificate attached.

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