

The Certified Guiding Lion Program A Course for New Club Success!

To a new club, the value of qualified, competent Guiding Lions cannot be overemphasized. It is through their leadership that a group of people becomes a full-fledged Lions club, dedicated to serving those in need. Strong, helpful Guiding Lions ensure that the chartering process goes smoothly and that there is a solid foundation built for the new club's future success. Now, the role of the Guiding Lion has gained a new dimension with the introduction of the Certified Guiding Lion Program.

Guiding Lions are experienced Lions with proven leadership skills who are appointed by the district governor, with the advice of the president of the sponsoring club and the district extension chairman, to help assist a new club during its formation and early existence. The Certified Guiding Lion Program takes this responsibility one step further by requiring that the Guiding Lions also successfully complete the Certified Guiding Lion course and serve the new club for two years instead of one.

The certification process helps Guiding Lions further refine their skills in a variety of areas, ensuring that they become an even more valuable asset to the district. Because of the multitude of skills acquired during the training period, certification is beneficial to the new club, the sponsoring club, the district and the Guiding Lions. It is a win-win situation for all involved. Even the most seasoned Guiding Lions can benefit from this new initiative, as it is the most comprehensive overview available regarding the roles and responsibilities of Guiding Lions.

The Road to Certification

To become certified, a Lion must complete the Certified Guiding Lion course and submit the appropriate documentation to acknowledge that objectives were met. The Certified Guiding Lion course helps Guiding Lions understand their role, develop a plan to assist the new club, provide tools to help new officers manage the club and locate available resources for the Guiding Lions and the club.

The Certified Guiding Lion course includes four sections that guides participants through the process of developing a new club. The course sections include:



- **Section I. Skills of a Successful Guiding Lion:** This section focuses on the leadership skills needed to be an effective Guiding Lion. The section will help identify areas that can be developed further to make the Guiding Lion a more effective leader and help him or her prepare to train the new club officers.
- **Section II. Club Officer Training:** This section is a manual that may be used to guide the new club officers through training. The section includes a detailed session outline and skill-building exercises to help guide new club officers through the material and find practical applications that will help them effectively manage their club. The exercises, titled "Put Yourself in Their Place," are designed to put the Guiding Lions in the role of a new club officer to help them understand their roles and responsibilities.
- **Section III. Transition to Independence:** This section has a series of easy to use forms and checklists to help the club set goals and track progress through the first few years.
- **Section IV: Certified Guiding Lion Program Review:** This section is a workbook with detailed questions about the course material. Once completed, the course participant will be asked to meet with the District Governor to review the answers. Once the course is complete and the District Governor acknowledges that the Lion has sufficient knowledge of the material, the Guiding Lion receives the Certified Guiding Lion Certificate, which recognizes his or her expertise and commitment to the program.

Once certified, and upon successfully assisting a new club through the club's first two years, the Lion will receive the prestigious Presidential Certified Guiding Lion Award.

Guiding Lion vs. Certified Guiding Lion

Guiding Lion

- Experienced Lion
- Appointed by the District Governor
- Assists the new club for one year

Certified Guiding Lion

- Experienced Lion
- Appointed by the District Governor
- Committed to assisting the new club for two years
- Proven leadership skills
- Successfully completes the Certified Guiding Lion course giving the Lion the training and the knowledge critical to the development of a new club.

"Leadership is more than service, it is enabling others to be more productive."

Begin the Process

Those interested in pursuing the Certified Guiding Lion Program should contact the New Clubs and Marketing Department at Lions Clubs International to receive the program objectives and course guidelines. The department can be reached by phone at (630) 571-5466, ext. 305; by fax at (630) 571-1691; or by e-mail at newclubs@lionsclubs.org. ■

Certified Guiding Lion Program Objectives

The Certified Guiding Lion Program improves:

- RETENTION** of new club members
- ORIENTATION** of new club officers and members
- ASSIMILATION** of the new club membership into the Lions structure
- RELATIONSHIP** between the sponsoring club and the new club
- SUPPORT SYSTEM** of advisors over a longer period of time
- KNOWLEDGE** level of the Guiding Lion

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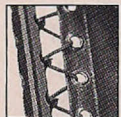
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