



Opportunities

A newsletter for multiple district and district youth chairpersons
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Your involvement with Lions Opportunities for Youth programs helps to inspire Lions, encourage young people and highlight Lions clubs in communities.

This newsletter features information and updates about Lions youth programs. Please share this information with your fellow Lions.

91st Annual Lions Clubs International Convention to be held June 23-27, 2008, in Bangkok, Thailand. Attending convention is an excellent opportunity to share ideas and accomplishments with Lions you would not ordinarily meet. Convention will include a *Leo Club Program Seminar, Leo Club Advisors Forum, Youth Camp and Exchange Chairpersons Forum, and Lions Youth Camp and Exchange Program Seminar*. Lions interested in these programs are encouraged to attend. For more information on convention or seminars please visit www.lionsclubs.org.



Leo Program News

The Global Leo Conference will be held during the Lions Clubs International Convention, in Bangkok. Please encourage Leos to attend. Leo conference activities will include a Leo welcome center, opening and closing sessions, Leo-Lion panel discussions and, marching in the International Parade, among other events. Leos should register with the International Convention. More information is available on www.lionsclubs.org, click: *Youth Programs, Leo Clubs, Leos at Convention*.

Marketing/Branding Project – Your Input is Needed!

Two new concepts for Youth Programs are being considered: 1. The creation of a two track Leo club program: one track for Alpha Leos and one track for Omega Leos – both designed to address the characteristics and needs of each of its members while connected through the larger Leo community united by its common purpose to Leadership, Experience and Opportunity. In developing this concept, Youth Programs will specifically be looking at what key program aspects each potential track should have and to what degree the two programs would be connected. 2. Developing an on-going Leo/Lion Advisory Panel composed of Leos and Lions who would work in an advisory capacity to help shape the future of the Leo program. In developing this concept, Youth Programs will be focusing in on the panel's composition, size, meeting format, etc. To provide input on these concepts, please e-mail leo@lionsclubs.org.

Leo Awards

Leo of the Year Award – applications for the 2008 Leo of the Year Award are due June 1, 2008 to the Youth Programs Department at International. One Leo from a Lions multiple district can be nominated or one Leo from a single district that is not part of a multiple district.



Leo Club Excellence Awards – applications for the 2008 Leo Club Excellence Awards are due August 15, 2008. All districts (single or sub-districts) may endorse one Leo club per district to receive the prestigious Leo Club Excellence Award patch.

Applications for both awards were mailed to district and multiple district chairpersons in February. Applications and award criteria are available on www.lionsclubs.org, click: *Youth Programs, Leo Clubs, Awards and Recognition, Leo and Leo club awards and recipients.*



Youth Camp and Exchange Program Update

New and Improved Directory

The new Youth Camp and Exchange Program Directory is organized in alphabetical order by country (USA is broken down by state) and includes all reported camp and chairperson details (from submitted Annual District/Multiple District Youth Camp and Exchange Reports). The directory is updated bi-monthly and lists youth camps, and names and contact details of youth camp and exchange (YCE) chairpersons.

Youth Camp and Exchange Chairpersons are able to use the new directory in order to establish direct contact with chairpersons in other districts and multiple districts. To update or include your camp or chairperson details in the directory, please submit the Annual District/Multiple District Youth Camp and Exchange Report form (sent to all district governors and council chairpersons in July/August) to the Youth Programs Department. For more information contact ye@lionsclubs.org.



Youth Camp and Exchange Program Participant Application

The revised participant application (formerly “youth exchange visitor application”) is available in two formats, Excel and as a PDF. The PDF can be used as in the past. The Excel version allows the form to be filled out electronically and e-mailed to youth camps and exchange chairpersons, host Lions clubs.

A European version of the application is also now available on-line, as some countries require a European version of the application. You can find all three applications on the Youth Programs Web page by clicking: *Youth Programs, Youth Camps and Exchange, Youth, participant application form.*



Lions Services for Children Program

An excellent tool that Lions can use to determine how they might best serve children in need is the *Community Needs Assessment Form* (IAD-304). It will also help to identify collaboration opportunities with individuals and organizations concerned with meeting the health and educational needs of children. Visit the “Youth Programs” pages of the website at www.lionsclubs.org to download this assessment form.

For a listing of special needs camps contact programs@lionsclubs.org.



Other News



2008 World of Children Awards

The World of Children recognizes and elevates selfless individuals who make a difference in the lives of children across the globe. Each year they honor select leaders, and grant them funds to support the proven, high-impact programs they have created.

Humanitarian Award – recognizes an individual who has made a significant lifetime contribution to children in the areas of social services, education or humanitarian services. Award recipient will receive grant funds up to US\$100,000.

Health Award – recognizes an individual who has made a significant lifetime contribution to children in the fields of health, medicine or the sciences. Award recipient will receive grant funds up to US\$100,000.

Founder's Youth Award – recognizes a young person under the age of 21, who is making extraordinary contributions to the lives of other children. Award recipient will receive grant funds up to US\$25,000. The grant funds will be donated to the proven, sustainable programs created and managed by the award recipient.

Take the time to nominate a young person in your community you feel is worthy of being honored for their dedication to the betterment of children. The deadline for nominations is April 30, 2008. Visit www.worldofchildren.org for more information about the awards, past honorees, and to access the online nomination form. If you do not have access to a computer or are unable to submit a nomination online, call (925) 399-6411 to request a hard copy nomination form and general information.

Peace Poster Contest

To get involved in the 2008-09 contest “Peace Begins with Me” order a kit today. Lions clubs can order Peace Poster Contest kits (one kit per contest sponsored) from Club Supplies Sales. Kits are US\$7.95 each, plus shipping and handling. Please note the deadline to purchase kits is October 1, 2008. For details and to view the winning posters, contact the Public Relations Department at International Headquarters or visit the Lions Web site: http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/youth_peace_poster.php3.



“Peace Around the World”
2007-08 Grand Prize Winner
Ming Yang Soong, 13 years old, from Bidor, Malaysia
Sponsored by the Bidor Lions Club, Malaysia



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