



# Common Questions about the Leo Club Program

## How do you organize a Leo club?

Information about organizing a new Leo club is contained in a free Leo Club Organization Kit available from the Youth Programs Department at International Headquarters or on the Lions Web site in the "Leo Zone" section.

## What costs are involved in Leo Club sponsorship?

Lions club sponsors must pay a one-time Leo club organization fee of US\$100.00. This fee covers:

- a Certificate of Organization;
- 20 Leo new member entrance fees (includes Leo new member kit complete with lapel buttons and membership cards);
- a Leo club officer kit; and
- a Leo club sponsor kit.

A US\$5.00 Leo new member entrance fee also applies to each additional Leo member over the first 20 members of a Leo club. As part of this entrance fee, Leo members receive a Leo new member kit. A Lions club can pay these additional fees when applying for Leo club certification or the association can bill the Lions club account.

To cover the administrative costs of the Leo Club Program, every Lions club sponsor is assessed a US\$90.00 annual Leo club levy. This levy is billed on the account of the Lions club sponsors in August. The levy for newly-organized Leo clubs is prorated depending upon the quarter of the year in which the club was certified.

## How do Leo clubs receive their certification?

Once the prospective Leos agree to form a new club (it is suggested that new Leo clubs have at least 15 members), they elect their club officers. The president of the sponsoring Lions club then submits a completed Leo Club Organization Report (Leo-51 form) to the Youth Programs Department. Typically, the new club's official certification date is the date that this report is received at headquarters. The chartering process may take up to 4-6 weeks.

## Are there age limits for Leos?

Yes. Leo club members must be between the ages of 12 and 30. Within this age range, Alpha Leo clubs are designed for young people between 12 and 18 years old. This track focuses on the individual and social development of teens and preteens.

Omega clubs are tailored for young adults between 18 and 30 years old. This track focuses on the personal and professional development of young adults.

## Must Leos be sons or daughters of Lions?

No. Leo club membership is open to any young person of good character. Eligibility is determined by the Leo club committee of the sponsoring Lions club.

## What is the relationship between the sponsor Lions club and a Leo club?

The sponsor Lions club is responsible for guiding and counseling its Leo club. By working closely with Leos, Lions ensure that their sponsored club operates within the policies of Lions Clubs International. Lions work with Leos in an open, constructive manner.

## What is a Leo club advisor?

In consultation with the Leo club, a Lion is appointed to serve as an advisor for the Leo club. This individual should be someone who enjoys working with youth. The leadership provided by an advisor often affects the success of a Leo club. The advisor, along with two other appointed Lions, forms the Leo club advisory committee.

Often, school-based Leo clubs are required to have a faculty member as an advisor. If the faculty member is not a Lion, a Lion co-advisor should be selected to maintain close rapport with the Lions club.

## Can more than one Lions club sponsor a Leo club?

Yes. With written approval of the district governor, two or more Lions clubs may jointly sponsor a single Leo club. The Lions club sponsors will have equal representation on the Leo advisory committee. One Lions club sponsor should be designated to serve as the permanent liaison with International Headquarters concerning Leo club billings and administration. There is no limit to the number of Leo clubs that a single Lions club can sponsor.

## Can branch or Lioness clubs sponsor a Leo club?

No. Only Lions clubs can sponsor Leo clubs. Branch and Lioness club members can serve as co-advisors for Leo clubs.

## **Can Lions clubs pay Leo fees and levies from their activity account?**

Yes. Leo clubs are an official Lions club activity. Therefore, Leo fees and levies can be paid from the Lions club's activity and/or administrative account. Likewise, either account may fund the administrative expenses of the Leo club.

## **Can Leo clubs pay their own fees or levies?**

Indirectly. A sponsor Lions club is responsible for all fees and levies relating to its Leo club. However, some Leo clubs choose to repay their sponsor Lions clubs for these items.

## **Can Leos order supplies from headquarters?**

As a sponsored activity of a Lions club, a Leo club does not have an account with the association. When purchasing items from International Headquarters, Leos can send a US dollar check or money order; or Leo club purchases can be billed to the account of the Lions club sponsor if authorization is given by an officer of the sponsoring Lions club.

## **Do Leos have to submit monthly membership reports?**

Yes. Leo club secretaries should submit monthly membership reports to International Headquarters using the LeoMMR, an online membership reporting system. Incoming Leo officers should be reported by May 15. A Leo officers' packet is mailed annually around March to the Leo club advisors. Name or address changes for Leo club advisors and officers should be immediately reported to the Youth Programs Department.

## **What awards are available for Leos?**

Leadership, membership and extension awards are available for Leos and Leo clubs. A complete list of Leo awards is available on the Lions Web site at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) in the "Leo Zone". In addition, there are Leo awards available for purchase through the online Lions Clubs Supplies Store.

## **What are Leo districts?**

When there are six or more officially certified Leo clubs in a Lions district, the district governor can approve the formation of a Leo district. The territorial boundaries of the Leo district must match those of the sponsoring Lions district. All Leo districts must follow the guidelines stated in the Standard Leo District Constitution approved by the International Board of Directors.

When there are ten or more Leo clubs in a Lions multiple district, a Leo multiple district may be organized. Leo membership within the multiple district must exceed 100. The council of governors must approve

the formation of a Leo multiple district. All Leo multiple districts must follow the guidelines stated in the Standard Leo Multiple District Constitution approved by the International Board of Directors.

## **Can Leos serve on the Lions district cabinet?**

If the Leo also happens to be a Lion, he or she may serve on the Lions district cabinet, if appointed.

## **Do sponsoring Lions districts have authority over Leo districts?**

Yes. The sponsoring Lions district must approve of the following: scheduling of the annual Leo district conference, the actions of Leo district conferences, per capita Leo district taxes, and Leo district accounts. In addition, sponsoring Lions districts may terminate Leo districts after submitting a written notice of their withdrawal of sponsorship.

## **Can Leo clubs be placed on "status quo"?**

No. Status quo does not apply to Leo clubs. If a Leo club becomes inactive, the Lions club sponsor can choose to continue its sponsorship in anticipation of eventual reorganization. The Leo club retains its active status until the international office receives the Leo Club Termination Form (Leo-86) from the sponsor Lions club.

## **What happens to a Leo club when its Lions club sponsor is placed on status quo or is canceled?**

A Leo club is not immediately affected when its sponsor Lions club is placed on status quo. If the sponsor Lions club is subsequently canceled, the Leo club is granted a 180-day "grace" period to find a new Lions club sponsor, before the Leo club is canceled as well.

## **Are Leo club members and their volunteers covered under the association's comprehensive general liability insurance program?**

Yes. The policy names Leo club members as insured. The policy covers injuries sustained by third parties as well as damage to property owned by third parties to a limit of US\$1 million per occurrence if the Leo club is held legally responsible. Please refer to the Lions Clubs International Liability Program for complete information.

## **Can the Leo emblem appear on articles sold to the public or other Lions?**

As with Lions clubs, districts and multiple districts, Leo clubs, districts and multiple districts may need to seek approval when using the Lions and Leo trademarks. Please refer to the Lions Clubs International Trademark Policies for complete information.