



Leo-Lion Cultural Exchange Ambassador Scholarship

Leo-Lion Cultural Exchange Ambassadors have an opportunity to connect and share their experiences as Leo-Lions with members all over the world.

With the financial support of the Cultural Exchange Ambassador Scholarships, one Leo-Lion from each constitutional area (CA) will be assigned to a CA Lions forum other than their own to gain fresh perspectives and new ideas on leadership and service, while learning about the rich culture of people living in that region of the world. For example, a Leo-Lion from CA 4 may apply to attend the CA 8 Africa Forum. While applicants may indicate their preferred Lions forum assignments, final assignments will be made by the Scholarship Committee.

Expectations

Scholarship recipients will represent their constitutional areas and attend host forum sessions and events throughout all the scheduled dates. Leo-Lion Cultural Exchange Ambassadors will also participate in forum service events to learn about the differences and similarities of regional community needs and service event concepts.

After returning to their regions, Leo-Lion Cultural Exchange Ambassadors should share the information and experiences gained from this opportunity with other members during district, multiple district and CA events.

Each Leo-Lion Cultural Exchange Ambassador is required to write a blog about their experiences gained while attending the Lions forums, including service and social events. The blogs may be used for publication on the Lions Clubs International

website and social media platforms. In addition to the blog, ambassadors are also expected to assist in promoting the benefits of the Leo-Lion program and may be requested to assist the Leo-Lion board liaisons with promotional initiatives, participate in webinars, create video promotions, and contribute posts to the Leo-Lion LinkedIn group.

Candidate Qualifications

Qualified Leo-Lion Cultural Exchange Ambassador Scholarship candidates are members in good standing in active Lions clubs, and have successfully completed reported terms in any of the following leadership positions:

- Leo club officer
- Leo district or multiple district president
- District or multiple district Leo chairperson
- Lions club officer

Candidates must also:

- Possess current qualified travel documents.
- Be available during the dates of the assigned forum.
- Commit to attending a forum that is assigned to them after written confirmation of acceptance.
- **Submit the Leo-Lion scholarship by the deadline noted on the Leo-Lion Program webpage.**

Scholarship Funding

The Leo-Lion Cultural Exchange Ambassador Scholarship is a financial reimbursement program. Recipients will be reimbursed a maximum of US\$2,625.00 for eligible expenses incurred as a result of participation in this program. Eligible expenses include travel (airfare, train tickets, etc.), meals during travel days to and from the forum, and meals and lodging during forum dates. Recipients of the Leo-Lion Cultural Exchange Ambassador Scholarship will be required to submit their receipts from their forum to be eligible for reimbursement. Personal item expenses and additional travel costs not related to the program will not be reimbursed by the Leo-Lion Cultural Exchange Ambassador Scholarship.

Reimbursement of eligible expenses require:

- Completion of forum attendance, participation in sessions/events and at least one service event
- Submission of expense report in compliance with LCI rules of reimbursement, including copies of all receipts, tickets and airline boarding passes
- Submission of a written blog submitted within two weeks of completion of the Lions forum and included with the Leo-Lion Cultural Exchange Ambassador Scholarship expense report

Application

Leo-Lions who meet the qualifications of this scholarship program may apply for the Leo-Lion Cultural Exchange Ambassador Scholarship.

Check the Lions forums page at lionsclubs.org/resources-for-members/forums for forum locations and dates.

All Leo-Lion Cultural Exchange Ambassador Scholarship applications will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee. Approved scholarship recipients will be contacted within three weeks of submission.

Applicants will have one week to confirm acceptance of the assigned forum to confirm their participation in the program.

*The safety of all our members is a top priority of Lions Clubs International. Although Lions forums may proceed, COVID-19 related travel rules and restrictions continue to develop to ensure safe travel and socialization. This may include closing borders to travelers in and out of certain countries and regions, or canceling events. Applicants should check with their country's travel authorities and with potential host country's travel authorities frequently for updates.

Check out the International Air Transport Association (IATA) website for travel information. You can also sign up for IATA automatic notifications when travel restrictions change. Remember to adhere to all government issued travel restrictions, quarantine guidelines, and vaccination mandates issued by the region which you will be traveling from and to.

In the event that a CA Lions forum is canceled Lions Clubs International will notify the selected Leo-Lion Cultural Exchange Ambassador assigned to that CA Lions forum.

Contact membership@lionsclubs.org for more information about the Cultural Exchange Ambassador Scholarship opportunity.