

NEW SGI-USA GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERSHIP

The guidelines for becoming an SGI-USA member have been revised. The Central Executive Committee met to review the guidelines for membership in the SGI-USA during its June 1999 conference. After gathering input from cities across the country to review the process on becoming an SGI-USA member, the guidelines were revised to reflect the suggestions received. To qualify for membership in SGI-USA and to receive the Gohonzon, these basic requirements should be fulfilled. They encompass the basics of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism — faith, practice and study.

Faith:

1. Demonstrate the intent to take faith in and practice Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism.

Practice:

2. Have started learning gongyo and chanting daimoku regularly.
3. Have an altar set up at home for the Gohonzon to be enshrined.
4. Belong to a district and have attended activities for a minimum of three months.

Study:

5. Subscribe to and read the *World Tribune*.
6. Have participated in a Basics of Buddhism Seminar.

In addition to meeting the above qualifications, to complete the membership approval process, the prospective new member should:

- Be sponsored by a member of the organization.
- Complete the application form.
- Be visited by a district /chapter leader who can answer questions and assist in any way needed.
- Submit the application to be approved by the chapter membership committee.
- Receive the Gohonzon at a scheduled meeting and enshrine the Gohonzon in their altar at home.

The focus of the Soka Gakkai International is to always cherish each individual. Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism is a religion that enables every human being to bring forth his or her full potential. Applying humanistic principles and always respecting the dignity of each individual's life, the SGI movement seeks the happiness of all people and the realization of a peaceful society.

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