

CHICAGO YOUTH 'REACH FOR THE SKY'

Since the beginning of the year, there has been a wide range of youth activities in Chicago, from large gatherings with much excitement to intimate and profound dialogues taking place late at night, in someone's apartment, in a coffee shop or on a bus. At times, members celebrated one another's progress and victories, at others they struggled with little support and lack of communication. Throughout it all, they have never ceased to challenge themselves to advance kosen-rufu in Chicago.

As they head into the second half of the Year of Victory in the Community for the New Century, the Chicago youth division members are determined to grow even further and to win in their communities by showing actual proof in their daily lives. In preparation for Chicago's youth festival, "Reach for the Sky," scheduled to be held Aug. 14 at the North Shore Center for Performing Arts in Skokie, Ill., the study focus for the youth division is SGI President Ikeda's poem, "Youth, Scale the Mountain of Kosen-rufu of the 21st Century," which was recently revised and published in the April 16 *World Tribune*. In addition, they have set a goal of chanting 100 million daimoku from May 3 to Aug. 14, as part of SGI-USA's ongoing 10 billion daimoku campaign for 1999.

As the youth division members seek to recapture the spirit to propagate and challenge all kinds of obstacles in pursuing their dreams, they are determined to have everyone experience victory in their lives, so that their confidence and joy will radiate on stage — a true manifestation of hope in the community.

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Title: Chicago Youth 'Reach for the Sky'
Subject: World Tribune 06/25/99 n.3248 p.1 WT990625p01
Author: Jeffery Meguro
Keywords: Chicago Culture Festivals Jeffery Meguro Reach Recitals Shows Youth