

**MIDWEST YOUTH HOLD SUMMER FESTIVAL
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The Midwest Region Youth Festival, held June 24–25 in Kansas City, Mo., was attended by 141 youth from seven states: Missouri, Kansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska. Travis Wells, 14, of Omaha, Neb., said that “it was fun to meet people from different states and see people I haven’t seen in a while.” Many of the youth came from small towns where there are few members their age.

Highlights of the weekend included small group discussions on the meaning of faith, based on SGI President Ikeda’s *Discussions on Youth*, and a night at Rockhurst University, where the youth held a talent show and dance.

SGI President Ikeda sent a message to the festival encouraging the participants that “to be on the great path of correct faith means always to encourage and praise one another while advancing toward kosen-rufu and the attainment of Buddhahood in this lifetime. Activities carried out when your hearts are in accord, linked by strong bonds of trust, will enable you to joyfully bring forth limitless power and potential.”