

GREAT LAKES REGION BYAKUREN MEETING BY MIRANDA BELL, MICH.

The first Great Lakes Region Byakuren training course was held in West Olive, Mich., on July 16. Kirk Park Lodge, about one-quarter mile from Lake Michigan, was rented for the day. It was a beautiful day for our activity.

Byakuren leaders led a discussion with 11 young women from Michigan. One person explained the importance and responsibilities of Byakuren. One of the things we learned was that the origin of the name *Byakuren* came from Nichiren Daishonin's disciple Byakuren Ajari Nikko Shonin. He is also known to us as Nikko Shonin, the disciple who served and protected Nichiren Daishonin while he was on Sado Island.

This is what the Byakuren do—serve and protect the members. Nikko Shonin was Nichiren Daishonin's faithful disciple throughout his whole life, just like the Byakuren are faithful disciples of SGI President Ikeda and protector of the members.

Based on our sincere practice of Nichiren Daishonin's teachings, the mission of Byakuren is to selflessly protect and support the SGI members and friends and safeguard the activity centers as we awaken and nurture our eternal seeking spirit to become reliable women of courage, compassion, wisdom and joy (Byakuren Mission Statement).

By doing this, Byakuren members can do their own human revolution and create great benefits!