

## **SGI-USA BOYS AND GIRLS GROUP FOCUS FOR 2002**

### **For the Boys and Girls Group Members**

As SGI-USA Boys and Girls Group members, you have worked hard to accomplish your goals. You contributed greatly to SGI-USA activities as well as activities in your school, community and family. You inspired everyone with your bright, shining smiles and your enthusiasm. Your energy, seeking minds and determination will help you win in everything you do. Please remember to chant Nam-myoho-renge-kyo to the Gohonzon and never, ever give up!

Let's keep in mind our five points for the SGI-USA Boys and Girls Group:

- 1) Study hard at school.
- 2) Try your best at gongyo and daimoku every day.
- 3) Cherish your friends!
- 4) Respect everyone in your family.
- 5) Believe in yourself. No matter what, never, ever give up on anything!

Thank you so much for your efforts! Please enjoy yourself as you take steps each day to accomplish your dreams during 2002.

### **For the SGI-USA Boys and Girls Group Representatives:**

- 1) Let's continue to develop fun and informative activities for the children.

Let's nurture the children in every way possible, and support them in building lasting friendships! Many areas have developed age-appropriate activities to encourage and teach the children about Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism and the SGI movement for peace, culture and education. Please make a good annual plan for the children's activities and submit that plan along with any budget requests to your local leadership so they can support your needs.

- 2) Let's involve our Boys and Girls Group members in their district activities.

One focus for activities in the SGI-USA is solidifying the district organization. By establishing a family atmosphere in our districts, everyone will be encouraged and feel comfortable in bringing family and friends.

- 3) Let's continue to teach the basics of the Daishonin's Buddhism to the children.

Study is an important element in our practice of the Daishonin's Buddhism. Please feel free to incorporate the study suggestions listed at the end of this article into your study program for the children. Please remember our goal is to enhance the children's confidence in themselves and in their practice.

- 4) Let's encourage the parents of our "messengers of the future" to support and participate in our Boys and Girls Group activities and study efforts.

Let's take every opportunity to nurture our children in faith. SGI President Ikeda encourages us: "When this noble spirit is passed on from parent to child, the continuous flow of kosen-rufu will be assured. I stress this for the sake of the future."

- 5) Let's focus on "family-to-family" encouragement through home visits.

One of the five points for the Boys and Girls Group members is "to respect everyone in their family." Let's take action together with our children to encourage another family, too, thereby teaching our children the importance of one-to-one human dialogue.

6) Let's use the *Friends for Peace* section of the *World Tribune* as a source of encouragement for the Boys and Girls Group members.

*Friends for Peace* is the children's newsletter and we want to encourage participation of, by and for children.

7) Let's support the Raising Our Children Conference to be held at the Florida Nature and Culture Center from Aug. 15–18, 2002.

Let's actively promote this most valuable conference to all mothers, fathers, teachers, youth leaders and any members engaged in raising the children who will develop into the future leaders of our kosen-rufu movement. In his message to us during our conference last year, SGI President Ikeda stated: "For the sake of your children's sound development, please build a 'creative family' in which you will develop and advance alongside your children."

## **SGI-USA Boys and Girls Group Study Program 2002**

Our study curriculum topics have remained the same for five years. It's time for a fresh study program for our precious SGI-USA children!

There is a new topic for each three-month period over the next two years. Each topic is broad, so each local area can adapt the topic to best suit the ages and interests of their Boys and Girls Group members.

Since we will study the same topic over a three-month period, there will be a chance to reinforce the topic through various methods: Buddhist concepts; children's books; biographies of famous people; craft activities; science projects; field trips; experiences from children or other members; hands-on projects and interactive games; community service activities; lessons from nature, etc. We will share ideas through *Friends for Peace* in the *World Tribune*.

Below are the topics with some examples of concepts and materials that may be used. Please contact your zone/region Boys and Girls Group representative for additional information.

### **January–March: What is happiness?**

Buddhist Concepts: Relative vs. absolute happiness, human revolution, the Ten Worlds, the three treasures.

Picture Book to read: *Cody Chants*.

Study Passage: "More valuable than treasures in a storehouse are the treasures of the body, and the treasures of the heart are the most valuable of all. From the time you read this letter on, strive to accumulate the treasures of the heart!" (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 851).

### **April–June: How can we face life's struggles with hope and courage?**

Buddhist Concepts: Changing poison into medicine, power of chanting Nam-myoho-rence-kyo.

Picture Book to read: *The Cherry Tree* by Daisaku Ikeda.

Study Passage: "Those who believe in the Lotus Sutra are as if in winter, but winter always turns to spring" (WND, 536).

### **July–September: How can I make a difference in the world?**

Buddhist Concepts: Bodhisattva; the practice for oneself and others; the oneness of life and its environment.

Study Passage: "If you light a lantern for another, it will also brighten your own way" (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 1598).

Study Material: *The Way of Youth*, pages 144–46, 157–61 and 166–78.

**October–December: Dream and goals**

Buddhist Concepts: Determination; earthly desires are enlightenment; believing in yourself and never giving up.

Study Passage: “The mighty warrior General Li Kuang, whose mother had been devoured by a tiger, shot an arrow at the stone he believed was the tiger. The arrow penetrated the stone all the way up to its feathers. But once he realized it was only a stone, he was unable to pierce it again. Later he came to be known as General Stone Tiger. This story applies to you” (WND, 953).

Suggested Topics for 2003:

<b>January–March:</b>	Friendship/Relationships
<b>April–June:</b>	Peace/Nonviolence
<b>July–September:</b>	Cause and effect— what is karma and how do I change it?
<b>October–December:</b>	Change/Human Revolution