

ORGANIZING A UNIT AT

THE LIONS CLUB



New-Unit Resource Kit



LIONS CLUBS, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

300 22d Street
Oak Brook, IL 60521-8842
708-571-5466

MAJOR PUBLICATION

The Lion Magazine
in 19 languages

FOUNDED

1917—Chicago, Ill.

FOUNDER

Melvin Jones

MOTTO

We Serve

SLOGAN

Liberty, Intelligence,
Our Nation's Safety

OBJECTIVES

- To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.
- To promote the principles of good government and good citizenship.
- To take an active interest in the civic, cultural, social, and moral welfare of the community.
- To unite the clubs in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship, and mutual understanding.
- To provide a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest; provided, however, that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by club members.
- To encourage service-minded men to serve their community without personal financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works, and private endeavors.

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Special Interests. Sight conservation (Sight First campaign), drug awareness, diabetes education and research, citizenship and community betterment, international relations, youth exchange, youth camps.

Special Interest in Scouting. About 3,500 U.S. clubs have Scouting units, emphasize Scouting for the blind, braille literature, talking books, etc.

Methods of Supporting Scouting. Unit operation, administrative leadership, project help, technical assistance, and financial backing.

Structure. International Association of Lions Clubs is the world's largest service organization with approximately 40,000 clubs in 171 countries and geographical areas.

International president is top lay executive officer, and heads the International Board of Directors, the policy-making body. Executive administrator is top professional administrative officer.

Clubs are administered through 691 geographical groupings called districts. Districts are divided into regions, which are in turn subdivided into zones.

A district governor heads each district, a deputy district governor heads a region, and a zone chairman heads each zone.

Top elected officer of the local club is the president.

Local clubs are autonomous in selection of their activities. Club Boys and Girls Committee administers Scouting projects.

All officers change on July 1.

Local Contact. Club president.

Scouting-Related Literature. Scouting: Community Outreach for Your Lions Club (brochure), No. 3-126. *Scouting: Community Outreach for Your Lions Club* (video).

CLUBS IN MY DISTRICT

President	Location	Meetings Held At	Day of Month	Phone	Units

STEPS TO SUCCESS

Organizing a Unit at the Lions Club

Target Date

1. Review the brochure Lions Clubs International (03-126) prior to making an appointment.

2. Contact the Lions Club president for an appointment.

3. Make a sales call on the Lions Club president.

4. The Lions Club adopts Scouting and the Lions Club president appoints a chartered organization representative.

5. The chartered organization representative appoints an organizing committee of parents and interested Lions Club members. They meet to discuss the next step and complete a New-Unit Application.

6. The organizing committee selects and recruits key leaders and committee members.

7. Train leaders in program planning (Fast Start).

8. Plan program for at least the first six months.

9. Recruit youth members and orient parents.

10. Complete the paperwork and submit it to the council office.

11. Start unit meetings.

12. Install the unit and formally present the charter at a meeting of the Lions Club.

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Fiscal Year 2002-2003

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The International Association of Lions Clubs

(Lions Clubs International®)

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KAY K. FUKUSHIMA
International President

My fellow Lions:

From the earliest years of our association, Lions have been major supporters of Scouting Programs. In fact, apart from church groups, Lions clubs in the United States sponsor more Boy Scout troops than any other organization. In 2001, our Scouting involvement influenced 92,311 Scouts in 2,938 units throughout the United States. This is a statistic we point to with pride.

The values embodied in the Scouting philosophy help youth to adopt positive character traits, actively engage in community life, and develop leadership skills as well as physical and mental fitness. Scouts also learn their role of service to their global community, and they come to realize that we are all of "One World, One Heart." These are principles that mirror our own Lions' objectives. For this reason, I am pleased to renew our endorsement of the Boy Scout Program and to encourage you to participate in Scouting events in your local area.

Lions clubs involved in the Scouting program have a unique opportunity to "Build a Better Tomorrow" by reaching out to youth. This outreach affects not only the youth who are involved, but their families as well. Scouts can become valuable partners with Lions in performing humanitarian and community enrichment activities.

I hope you will welcome Scout leaders as they visit in your area, and will consider how your club can partner with the Boy Scouts of America in developing harmony with youth.

Sincerely,



Kay K. Fukushima
International President



We Serve

Overcoming Objections To Organizing a New Unit

1. **We already have a youth program.**

It's great that your organization cares about its youth (and the youth of the community). Scouting is ideal to work hand in hand with existing programs to enhance what you currently offer. Not only are our goals/values compatible, but our methods can/will work well with what you do. Scouting can bring programs and facilities to you to make a good program even better.

2. **We tried Scouting once and it didn't work.**

What do you feel was the reason? (Explore – look for the biggies – lack of organization/commitment, uncommitted or poor leaders, lack of training, lack of vision, poor support from district/council/BSA.)

Address each issue:

Organizational Commitment – Starts at the top – the strong commitment of your (head, board, etc.) will be contagious.

Leaders – Use selection, not recruiting – get often and get the very best in organization (after all, it's your program), train them and then support them!

Vision – Be creative about how to serve the youth of the organization; have a community dream and then implement the dream.

BSA Issues – Assume it won't happen again – promise and **deliver**.

3. **We don't have any youth in our organization.**

Scouting provides a means for your organization to become known in the community, especially among families with children of Scout age. It's **great** advertising and community goodwill. In addition, the Scouting program is a tremendous tool to outreach into the community and give people an opportunity to become a part of your organization.

4. **We cannot afford Scouting.**

The ninth point of the Scout Law states: A Scout is thrifty – he learns to pay his own way. We teach that Scouts and units should pay their own way. We provide the opportunities for troops to raise money for their use. The only cost to the chartered organizations is a charter fee of \$20.

5. **We don't have any space in our building for them to meet.**

I understand how you feel; others have also felt that way. We have found that many are able to identify classroom meeting areas as possible meeting places for the Scouting program. Additionally, several organizations have used the resources of their members or employees to provide meeting space for meetings. The other potential solution is that of a joint chartered organization to charter the Scouting program.

6. No one knows anything about the Scouting program.

Many of our very best leaders have started out knowing little or nothing about the Scouting program. Our council provides various training courses throughout the year, roundtables and self-study materials. Subjects include outdoor skills and other topics. We also provide volunteer support for leaders to help them provide a high-quality program.

7. We don't agree with several of the Boy Scout stands on membership.

We feel that as a private organization we have a right to establish our membership requirements. I thank you for your time, but I feel that there's nothing further we can do at this time to help you.

8. We cannot charter a Scouting program because we have no leaders.

The BSA has a process to help you choose leaders. The process involves listing the characteristics required for a leadership position and then identifying individuals who fit those characteristics.

9. We cannot charter a Scouting program because our youth are mostly from single-parent families.

One of the strengths of the Scouting program is its ability to include and serve a variety of family configurations. In fact, Scouting is particularly helpful to youth from single-parent families.

10. No one has time to be a leader.

It's important that you find the time; if you don't, there are people on the streets who will find the time to spend with your child, and they may not be the type or kind of people you want your child to be around. Scouting has a program that brings families together, consisting of family camping, religious awards, etc.

11. Liability is a major concern of our organization.

The general liability policy issued to the Boy Scouts of America provides primary liability insurance coverage for all chartered organizations and participating organizations for liability arising out of their chartering of a traditional Scouting unit. Your \$20 charter fee covers your organization with the liability insurance provided by the BSA.

NEW-UNIT ORGANIZATION PROCESS

1. **Identify the prospect.** District leaders identify a community organization prospect with the potential to operate a unit after researching the youth market and considering the most promising community organizations.
2. **Approach the prospect.** An influential Scouter or the district executive makes an appointment to meet with the head of the community organization or top leadership group in the organization after researching the organization and determining how Scouting can help meet its needs.
3. **Make the sales call.** The district executive and the unit organizer or other influential Scouter meet with the head or top leaders of the community organization to sell them on how Scouting can help meet the needs of the organization and to obtain the willingness of the organization's leaders to establish a unit.
4. **Organization adopts the program.** The organization formally adopts the Scouting program, confirms the appointment of a chartered organization representative, and appoints an organizing committee.
5. **Organizing committee meets.** The organizing committee and the new-unit organizer meet to plan the next steps for establishing the unit and complete the new-unit application. A commissioner is assigned by the district to assist the unit.
6. **Select and recruit key leaders.** Using BSA selection procedures, the organizing committee selects and recruits unit leaders and confirms unit committee members, and the community organization approves all unit adults.
7. **Train the leaders.** Unit leaders complete Fast Start training and are invited to the next basic training course and the next district roundtable.
8. **Plan and organize the program.** New unit leaders are trained in program planning and the first month's program is developed.
9. **Recruit youth members and orient parents.** Recruit youth members, hold an orientation meeting for parents and youth, and select/recruit additional adults as needed.
10. **Complete the paperwork.** Complete all adult and youth applications, collect necessary fees, and submit with new-unit application to the council service center.
11. **Conduct first unit meeting.** Unit leaders begin youth meetings with the coaching of their unit commissioner.
12. **Follow up.** The unit is installed with a presentation of the charter to the chartered organization.

Note: Do not delete any steps, although some steps may be accomplished at the same time without regard to suggested sequence.