



Chapter 1

We are Lions: Hear Us Roar!

An overview of what it means to be a
Lion





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We are Lions, Hear Us Roar!

The 1.4 Million men and women that make up the International Association of Lions Clubs have a lot to roar about! With more than 43,000 clubs in 200 countries, each Lion is part of the world's largest civic organization. What makes Lions Clubs unique among service clubs is the focus of our organization on the local club. The aim of any single Lions Club, despite its location, size or age, is to offer its members the opportunity to better their community.

Since the founding of the first Lions Club in 1917, each Lions Club has united community leaders in a single cause: helping those less fortunate. That spirit of service is clearly laid out in our Association's Objects and Code of Ethics:

Lions International Objects

To Create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.

To Promote the principle 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 people 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.



Lions Code of Ethics

To Show my faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to the end that I may merit a reputation for quality of service.

To Seek success and to demand all fair remuneration or profit as my just due, but to accept no profit or success at the price of my own self-respect lost because of unfair advantage taken or because of questionable acts on my part.

To Remember that in building up my business it is not necessary to tear down another's; to be loyal to my clients or customers and true to myself.

Whenever a doubt arises as to the right or ethics of my position or action towards others, to resolve such doubts against myself.

To Hold friendship as an end and not a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of the service performed by one another, but that true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.

Always to bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state, and my community, as to give them my unswerving loyalty in word, act, and deed. To give them freely of my time, labor and means.

To Aid others by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, and my substance to the needy.

To Be Careful with my criticism and liberal with my praise; to build up and not destroy.

So how have Lions lived up to these high ideals of service? The answer to that question is as varied as the many clubs that make up our Association. Each Lions Club is empowered to serve the needs of their community as that club's leadership determines.



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Vision Services

Traditionally, almost every Lions Club includes in its community service program, sight aid services. For over 70 years, Lions have been recognized throughout the world for their service to the blind and visually impaired. This traditional commitment to sight services began in 1925



when Helen Keller challenged the delegates to the International Lions Club Convention to become “Knights of the Blind In The Crusade Against Darkness.” In order to bring rays of light into the darkness of countless people around the world, Lions have established eye banks worldwide, funded ground-

breaking research on the leading causes of blindness, and established and funded many guide dog training centers. Today, our Association has active vision service programs in over 40 developing countries on five continents, often providing basic eye care to persons who otherwise would have none. In Georgia, Lions are the major sponsor of the Children’s Eye Care Center at Emory University, own and operate a summer camp for the visually impaired, and have established the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation which meets the vision needs of thousands of Georgians each year.

Almost every Lions Club provides vision services to the less fortunate in their communities. Most clubs engage in eyeglass recycling programs, sponsor vision screening for children and the indigent, and provide eyeglasses for those who cannot afford them. In partnership with Georgia Lion’s Lighthouse foundation, these Clubs provide access to some



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of the most talented eye care specialist in the world, including surgeons, when necessary.

Youth: Service to the Future

Realizing that the young people of today are the leaders of tomorrow, most Lions Clubs are actively involved in several programs benefiting young persons. Not surprisingly, the Lions Clubs in United States sponsor more Boy Scout units than any other group. Scouting (including Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts) is only one of several youth programs that Lions Clubs support and sponsor.

Lions Clubs may sponsor a LEO Club in the local school. LEO Clubs are younger versions of Lions Clubs that afford opportunities for middle and high school students to begin serving their communities at a young age.



Similarly, Georgia Lions offer an extensive scholarship program to recognize and benefit outstanding young people in Georgia. The new program, called the Ambassadors for the 21st Century, allow each Lions Club to recognize young people with scholarships at the local level. These outstanding young persons then compete in public speaking for scholarships on the District and State level.

Many Lions Clubs sponsor Peace Poster Contests in the middle schools of their communities. The students are asked to design and create a poster, within the parameters set by Lions International, which is judged on its depiction of world peace. The international winners are presented





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annually to the United Nations during the Lions Day Celebration.

Lions Quest is available to Lions Clubs and school systems. This program provides a curriculum for teaching young persons moral codes and ethics. Many Lions Clubs provide the funding to have local teachers trained to present this exciting new program in the local schools.

International exchange opportunities exist for the young people of Georgia. Each year, Georgia students are selected and sponsored by local Lions Clubs to visit in the homes of Lions all over the world. Likewise, Georgia Lions host young persons from other Lions communities.



Finally, Georgia Lions recognize outstanding high school band students through the Georgia Lions All-State Band. Each spring, students are invited to

participate in the band program at the Georgia Lions State Convention. In addition, if the Lions International Convention is in North America, the All-State Band travels to the convention and marches in the International parade. The band also provides the entertainment at the very popular Georgia Jamboree.

Other major service areas:

There is no end to the types of service activities that a Lions Club will perform to improve their community. The motto of every Lions Club is “We Serve”. Whether helping the blind or hearing impaired...conducting drug or diabetes awareness campaigns...providing recreational opportunities



for children and the handicapped...conducting hearing screening tests...providing hearing aids to the needy...sponsoring research into the causes and treatment of blindness...protecting the ecosystem in their communities...fostering international understanding through sponsoring exchange programs...providing children with sports equipment or just a place to play... or raising the funds to make it all possible, service always comes first for a Lion. That's why Lions Clubs form not only the world's largest, but also the most active service organization in the world.

What Lions Are/What Lions Aren't

LIONS ARE members of the world's largest and most active service club organization.

LIONS AREN'T looking to build their own personal business connections through membership in a civic club.

LIONS ARE people who have decided to give something back to their communities, who are dedicated to finding people in need, and who meet those needs in an efficient caring way.

LIONS AREN'T people who simply write checks to benefit the hard work of charities in their community. Lions are those people working hard in those community charities.



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LIONS ARE men and women who believe that by working with other dedicated Lions, they will accomplish far more for their communities than would be possible alone.

LIONS AREN'T concerned with building personal prestige or reputation. Lions have a great reputation because of the hard work they perform. Their service speaks for itself.

LIONS ARE committed to solving major, worldwide health and social problems, and realize that solutions are possible when every Lions Club does it share.

LIONS AREN'T a group that raises funds locally to be sent elsewhere. Although Lions charities benefit state and worldwide activities, the majority of each Lions Club's activities focus on the local needs.



LIONS ARE people who cherish the friendship and fellowship within their own Club, but also feel a close kinship with fellow Lions in more than 180 countries and areas throughout the world.

LIONS AREN'T just about work. Lions have fun and fellowship. Friendships made in Lionism last a lifetime, because they are based on a common



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commitment to service. Lions work hard, but have fun all along the way.

LIONS ARE patriotic, giving allegiance to their country, while recognizing that all peoples must one day learn to live in peace.

LIONS AREN'T a political organization. Lions are not about political agendas, platforms or issues. In fact, most clubs will not allow an active candidate for political office to speak to their Club, unless all other candidates are given the same opportunity.

LIONS ARE dedicated to maintaining the highest ethical and moral standards in their Club-and in their personal lives.

LIONS AREN'T a religious organization. Most Lions have their own personal spiritual commitment, which all Lions are encouraged to have. Likewise, Lions Clubs are not fraternal organizations with rituals or special oaths.

***LIONS ARE DARING TO BRIGHTEN THE
FUTURE!***

