

The Lions Mentoring Program

A Journey of Self Development

THE WORLD OF MENTORING

Through the years, there have been countless stories of those who have benefited under the tutelage of a mentor. The word “mentoring” first appeared in the Greek poet Homer’s *The Odyssey* – a fitting origin for a word that represents an educational journey! Since those ancient times, the word has come to epitomize relationships that provide for an exchange of information and knowledge—and which are built on a foundation of trust, truth and compassion. Mentoring provides a mutually beneficial relationship where both the mentor and his/her protégé can learn, grow and reach their fullest potential together.

Now the world of mentoring is being brought to Lions Clubs International in an exciting and innovative new program, the **Lions Mentoring Program**. The program is designed to form a bond between experienced, knowledgeable Lions (mentors) and those who wish to further their commitment to the association (protégés).

THE JOURNEY

The Lions Mentoring Program is divided into **four levels**, each composed of specific goals that need to be reached within a defined time. At each level, the protégé Lion is challenged to increase his/her knowledge, level of commitment and leadership skills under the guidance of an appropriate, experienced Mentoring Lion.

Level One: Responsibility – The focus of the first level is a thorough and proper orientation of the new member. To successfully complete this level, orientation needs to take place within the first three months of the protégé Lion’s membership.

Level Two: Relationships – During this level, the protégé Lion and mentoring Lion are expected to meet the objectives of the Proud Lion/Proud Sponsor program. Together, they have five goals designed to increase the Protégé Lion’s involvement and understanding of the club. Completion of this level is expected within the first six months of the Protégé Lion’s membership. The Proud Lion/Proud Sponsor pin will be awarded to both the mentor and the protégé upon successfully concluding this level.

Level Three: Results – Goals at this level focus on developing leadership and management skills. The Protégé Lion becomes more involved with club activities, such as chairing a club committee; sponsoring a new member; conducting a community needs assessment; and attending a district, multiple district or international convention. The goals of Level Three will take approximately one to three years to obtain. Upon achievement, both the mentor and the protégé receive Level Three certificates. This level is excellent preparation for the protégé who may wish to participate in the Emerging Lions Leadership Institute.

Level Four: Replication – The final level challenges the protégé Lion to deepen his/her involvement in the club with activities such as holding the office of club president, obtaining an advanced Membership Key, conducting an orientation session for new club members and participating in club extension activities. Reaching these goals usually takes two to four years, at which point the Protégé Lion is well prepared to participate in a Senior Lions Leadership Institute. Upon completion of this level, the mentor and protégé are each awarded a Level Four certificate and a handsome lapel pin.

Each mentoring level is described further in an accompanying booklet (MTR 1-4). For example, level one is explained in the booklet MTR-1, which outlines goals, timeframes and strategies that are specific to successfully completing that level.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

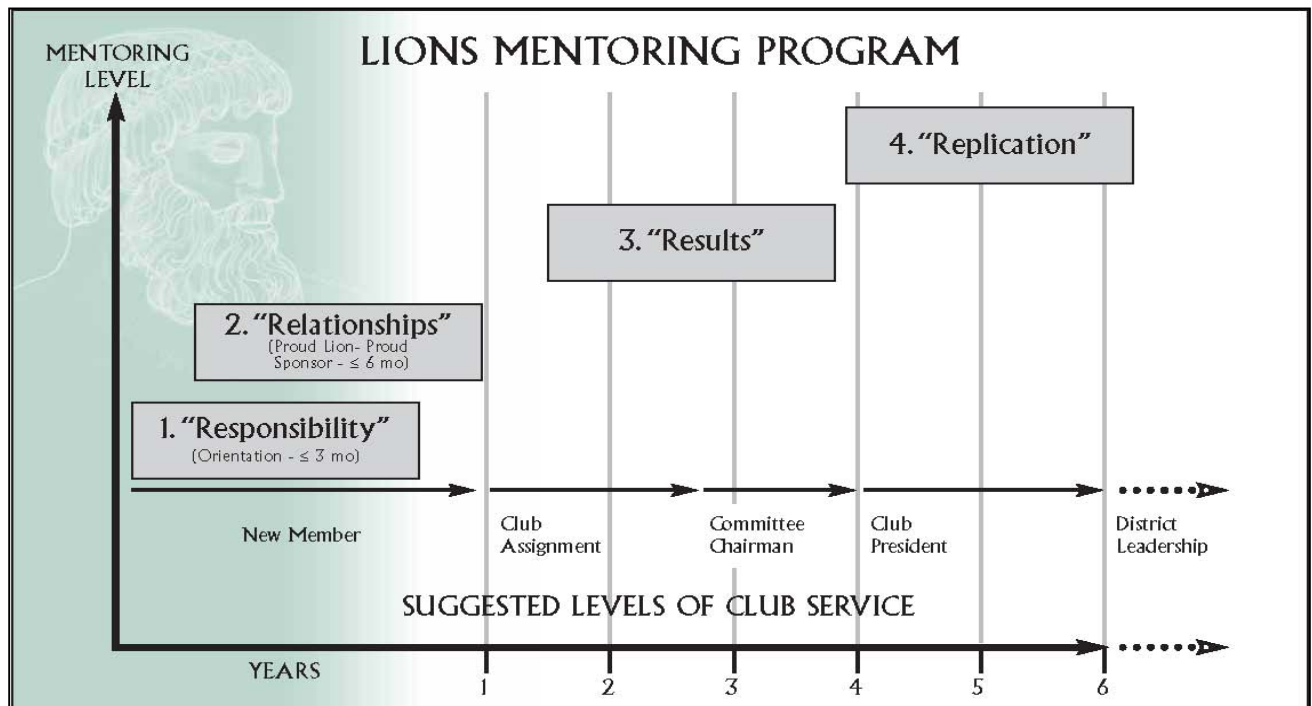
Every journey needs a map. The Lions Mentoring Program Mentorship Guide is your map for the Lions Mentoring Program journey. The Lions Mentoring Program Mentorship Guide is a comprehensive publication that details the concepts and objectives of the Lions Mentoring Program. This helpful guide explains the principles of mentoring and applies them to the Lions Mentoring Program. It is the essential reference for this dynamic program.

BEGINNING YOUR JOURNEY

The journey begins with members who are interested in learning, growing and developing leadership skills. Lions of all experience levels who are interested in the challenge are encouraged to participate—you do not need to begin as a new, incoming Lion to succeed in the program. Obtain a Mentorship Guide (MTR-5) from the Membership Operations Department at International Headquarters, and express to either your sponsor or club president your desire to begin the program.

History confirms that associations, organizations and businesses that take the step of establishing mentoring programs benefit by developing members who are prepared to become effective leaders.

For more information, or to obtain resource materials, contact the Membership Operations Department 300 W 22ND ST OAK BROOK IL 60523-8842 USA Phone: 630-571-5466, ext. 355 E-mail: lionsmentoring@lionsclubs.org



Lions Mentoring Program Timeline

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