



# Induction Ceremony

## Guide to Welcome New Members & their Sponsors

The Induction Ceremony is the symbolic beginning to a member's service as a Lion. It is also a key element in the lifelong retention of a member. A thoughtful induction, followed by a thorough orientation and meaningful involvement in the club's activities will keep a new member interested and engaged in the club. (or – alternate: will help the new member feel that he/she is a valuable part of the club.)

While it is customary for the club president to induct new members, it is certainly appropriate to have a former international or district officer, the Membership Committee chairperson or a well-respected senior Lion conduct the ceremony.

Induction Ceremonies will vary depending on local customs or activities of the club and district. Also, it is acceptable and encouraged to adapt the New Member Induction Ceremony to the affiliate membership category. When planning the ceremony, it is important to keep in mind that it should be dignified and meaningful for the participants.

Following are some ideas for creating an appropriate and meaningful Induction Ceremony, as well as suggested wording for the presentation.

### Suggested Ceremony Order

1. Begin by inviting each new member and their sponsor individually by name to the front of the room.
2. Welcome all the participants to the ceremony and share your joy for their attendance.
3. Give a brief history of the distinguished history of Lions Clubs International.
4. Present a short history about your club and its current activities.
5. Administer the pledge.
6. Present the pin.
7. Close the ceremony with a welcoming statement on behalf of your club and district, the presentation of a new member kit and an explanation of the sponsor's responsibilities.



## Sample Script

This is a very special day. This day is a day dedicated to honoring new members who have been brought into our organisation and to recognise the dedication of the sponsors who have invited them into our club. Today, we are expanding our ability to serve our communities and helping us to carry on our humanitarian efforts. On this day, we offer these new Lions an opportunity to experience our pride of service and the gift of lasting and meaningful friendship. This is truly a cause for celebration!

We honor these new Lions because they fill a very important role. . . they hold the key to our future. We must teach them well for they will be the leaders that will move us forward to serve the next generation. As we share our traditions and ask them to carry on the legacy of Lions. . . we should also look to them for new ideas and inspiration so that we may learn from them as they learn from us. As we celebrate this day, we must remember that no one becomes a Lion on his/her own . . . each new Lion is brought into our organization upon approval of the club's board of directors and on the recommendation of a very important Lion . . . the sponsor. These sponsors have had the foresight to see the qualities of a Lion in these promising new members. It may be outstanding leadership ability, a sincere commitment to serve others or maybe a special skill. Their sponsors saw potential for these new Lions to do something truly great and to use their skills for the most important mission of all . . . to help others.

We are about to begin the initiation ceremony to recognise and welcome (number) new members to the fellowship of the (Lions Club of \_\_\_\_\_/ or District \_\_\_\_). Please withhold any applause or demonstration until it is completed. I will call the names of the new members and their sponsors. As their names are called, will the sponsors and candidates please rise and come forward.

Lions & Guests, on behalf of the officers and members of the (Lions Club of \_\_\_\_\_ or District \_\_\_\_), I express our pleasure with your presence at this special ceremony . You have been invited to become members and we are all happy and proud that you have accepted membership in our organization and Lions International.

Membership in a Lions club is an esteemed privilege. You are joining the world's largest and most active service club organization, consisting of over 1.45 million service-minded diverse individuals in approximately 46,000 clubs in 2011 countries and geographical areas.

Our organisation was conceived at a meeting in Chicago, Illinois, on June 7, 1917, under the leadership of founder Melvin Jones. The expansion and growth of humanitarian service has been accomplished through the dedication of our members. Today, we ask you to help us carry the torch of Lions and build a brighter future for all mankind. We ask you... "to serve."

You are aware of the ethics and objects of our association, and of the work that Lions are doing. I must impress upon each of you that the privilege of Lions membership also entails definite obligations. The motto of our association and of our own club is "We Serve." As you progress as a Lion, you will discover the great satisfaction that comes from sharing in our effort.

The rewards of membership are great. You will enjoy the fellowship of the finest individuals in our communities. You will be warmed by the thanks of people you help and by the people of the community you serve. You will have the pleasure of working with other people and through club committee structure. You will see the problems of the community and, as a Lion, be asked to assume leadership in their solution. Above all, you will find in your Lions club a medium through which you... as good citizens and good neighbours... can express to others, the good will that is in your hearts.

**DREAM BIG. WALK TALL.**



## Pledge

“Since you have expressed a desire to affiliate with this club, and with Lions Clubs International, I now ask that you respond to my words with a simple ‘I do’ or ‘I will.’

Do you hereby accept membership in the \_\_\_\_\_ Lions Club knowing that you are encouraged to participate in functions of the club?

- I do –

To the best of your ability will you abide by the Lions Code of Ethics, attend meetings whenever possible and contribute your share to the programs of your club, district and Lions Clubs International?

- I will –

Will you pay your club dues on time?

- I will –

SPONSORING LION \_\_\_\_\_ as sponsor, will you please present the Lions emblem pin to \_\_\_\_\_ which signifies membership to Lions Clubs International.

SPONSORING LION \_\_\_\_\_ as sponsor, I will now ask you to respond to my words with a simple “I WILL” as I outline your obligations to:

1. To provide your new member with information about your Club, its by-laws and constitution.
2. To encourage your new member to discuss with you any problems that may arise and offer solutions.
3. To assist your new member to develop into a valuable member that your Club can be proud of.

Will you LION ..... undertake these responsibilities to the best of your ability?

- I will –

By the power vested in me by Lions Clubs International I now declare you as having been inducted as a Lion in the Lions Club of \_\_\_\_\_.

On behalf of your Club, please accept your official Certificate of Membership and a new Membership Kit.

LION \_\_\_\_\_ at this very moment you are the newest Lion in the world.

As a new Lion you have much to learn about our Association, but we too can also learn as YOU have the opportunity to bring new and fresh ideas into your Club and the Association.

LION \_\_\_\_\_, wear your Lions badge with pride.

“Congratulations”

**DREAM BIG. WALK TALL.**