

**SGI-USA BOYS & GIRLS GROUP FOCUS FOR 2001  
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SGI-USA BOYS & GIRLS GROUP COORDINATORS**

**For the Boys & Girls Group Representatives**

2001 — Year of Total Victory for the New Century

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

Using our study curriculum as a guide, let's help the children understand the basics of faith, practice and study. Let's nurture the children in every way possible, and support them in building lasting friendships!

2. Let's involve our Boys & Girls Group members in their district activities.

The focus of activities in many areas of the SGI-USA is solidifying the district organization and establishing a family atmosphere where everyone can come together to be encouraged and where we can bring our families and friends. SGI President Ikeda encourages us about children at the district discussion meeting: "And there are children in the Boys and Girls Group who are delightful, even if sometimes they may make a commotion" (Oct. 1996 *Seikyo Times*, p.17).

3. Let's make further progress in our study curriculum.

Study is an important element in our practice of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism. Each month we are printing study information for the children in the "Friends for Peace" newsletter in the *World Tribune*. The information for each study topic (see attached study topic list) is included in the preceding month's issue of "Friends for Peace," i.e., February's topic information will appear in the January issue. Let's use this material as a guide to help teach the basics of Nichiren Daishonin's teachings and the importance of the SGI's activities based on peace, culture and education. Our goal is to enhance the children's confidence in themselves and in their practice within the SGI. Please continue to send in any ideas you may have regarding any of the study topics so that we may share them with all Boys & Girls Groups around the SGI-USA.

4. Let's encourage the parents of our "champions of the future" to support and participate in our monthly Boys & Girls Group activities and study efforts.

By doing so, we hope to encourage all members of the family to study together at home.

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

One of the five points for the Boys & Girls Group members is "to respect everyone in their family." SGI President Ikeda has encouraged us to take action. By taking action together with our children to encourage another family, we can teach our children the importance of one-to-one human dialogue.

6. Let's continue to use the "Friends for Peace" newsletter within the *World Tribune* as a source of encouragement for the Boys & Girls Group members.

The "Friends for Peace" newsletter is the children's newsletter and we want to encourage the children's participation, i.e., experiences, games, puzzles, cartoons, stories, reports on activities, pictures, etc. Please send any material to:

SGI-USA

Attn: Friends for Peace

606 Wilshire Blvd.

Santa Monica, CA 90401

7. Let's support our Raising Our Children Conference to be held at the Florida Nature and Culture Center from Aug. 16–19, 2001.

Let's promote this most valuable conference to all mothers, fathers, teachers, youth leaders and all members engaged in raising our children who will develop into the future leaders of our kosen-rufu movement. SGI President Ikeda encouraged us in his message to this conference last year: "I sincerely appreciate and honor you who struggle daily to raise and educate our precious children. Each one of you is a precious pioneer of the great new century." Sign up for this conference by contacting your region leaders as soon as possible.

## **FOR THE BOYS & GIRLS GROUP MEMBERS**

**During the year 2000, many of you as Boys & Girls Group members made giant steps in your growth and development, and contributed greatly to the SGI-USA organization, to your school, your community and your family. Your bright, shining smiles and your enthusiasm encouraged many people. We applaud your determination and your efforts to win in your daily life—whether you are struggling in your school studies or in your relationships with family or friends. Please remember to continue chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo to the Gohonzon and never, never give up!**

**The SGI theme for the year 2001 is Year of Total Victory for the New Century. This year as you try your best in everything you do, please keep the spirit of the lion king in your heart so you will have the courage to face every day and win!**

## **LET'S REMEMBER OUR FIVE POINTS FOR THE SGI-USA BOYS & 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, never give up on anything!**

**Thank you so much for all your efforts every day! Please enjoy yourself as you take steps to accomplish your dreams during 2001!**

## **BOYS & GIRLS GROUP STUDY CURRICULUM TOPICS FOR 2001**

*Units of Study—12 (at least 1 per month/may vary topics according to your area)*

**January:** Conviction and Determination: Believe in yourself; self-confidence, never give up.

**February:** Courage

**March:** Diversity: Different types of religions and their respective beliefs; appreciate one another.

**April:** Three Basic Practices of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism

- Faith, Practice and Study
- Gongyo; why we do gongyo; silent prayers
- Gohonzon; what is the Gohonzon; what's on the Gohonzon; why do we focus on it
- Christian concept of God; Ten Worlds
- Concept of birth and death
- Explanation of symbolism in Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism: bells, candles, incense, etc.

**May:** Cause and Effect: Explain the concept of karma; concept of benefit.

**June:** Seeking Spirit: Include the importance of education; wisdom.

**July:** Concept of Mentor and Disciple: July 3 — SGI Day of Mentor and Disciple.

**August:** The SGI: Concept of global citizenship; SGI activities based on peace, culture and education.

**September:** Sense of Responsibility: Concept of *esho funi* — oneness of person and environment.

**October:** History and Important People: Historical outline of Buddhism; important people — Nichiren Daishonin, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, Josei Toda, Daisaku Ikeda, etc.

**November:** Appreciation

**December:** Friendship; respect