

INDUCTION CEREMONY - SAMPLE SCRIPT

The induction of new members into the Lions organization can take a variety of forms depending upon the customs and activities of the club and the district. To lend dignity and importance to the induction ceremony, it should be performed by a well-respected Lion. Existing Lions may be invited to stand during the ceremony to reconfirm their commitment to service.

The Lion leader calls the meeting to order with these words:

This is a very special day. This day is a day dedicated to honoring new members who have been brought into our organization and to recognize 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 recognize 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.

Here the Lion leader calls the names as follows: Susan R. Brown, sponsored by Lion Walter M. Smith. When all candidates and sponsors are standing, the Lion leader says:

Ladies and gentlemen, 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 1.3 million service-minded men and women in approximately 45,000 clubs in 206 countries and geographical areas. Our organization 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. Lions Clubs International is not a fraternal, social or political organization. It is a group of men and women bonded together to do things that you and I cannot do as individuals, a medium through which people of goodwill can serve their fellow men. 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.

You have seen how Lions clubs serve their communities and their neighbors who are blind, sick, stricken and disabled. This humanitarian work would not be possible unless people were willing to give their time and effort. Any member will tell you that this requires work . . . work that you will be assigned and will be expected to do. Our work is a cooperative effort in which every member shares the load so that the load of less fortunate people will not be so heavy.

The rewards of membership are great. You will enjoy the fellowship of the finest men and women 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 neighbors... can express to others, the good will that is in your hearts.

Since you have expressed a desire to affiliate with (Club Name) club, and with Lions Clubs International, I now ask that you repeat after me, the Obligation of Membership:

"I **(your name)**... take this solemn obligation... to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the club and the International Association of Lions Clubs... to attend all meetings regularly... to support and further the interests of the club... in all its undertakings... to contribute my fair share... towards the financial support of the club... I further declare... that I will assist in maintaining... building... and strengthening the membership of the club... that I will help the club... by actively serving on committees and in other capacities... where my efforts are needed... and that I will practice... the principles of the Code of Ethics... and the Objects of Lions International."

Thank you and welcome into the membership of the (Lions Club of _____ or District _____). As your sponsors present you with the certificate, I will ask them to repeat the obligation of a sponsor:

“ I (**your name**)... having sponsored (new member's name)... as a member of Lions Clubs International... do hereby agree... to see that he/she is properly welcomed and indoctrinated...in the activities and functions... of the club and of Lions Clubs International... I further pledge myself... to the best of my ability... to see to it that he/she attends all club functions... and that he/she becomes a good Lion.”

Lions, remember this day and remember to wear your Lions pin with pride. Let me congratulate you and welcome you into the greatest of all service club organizations... Lions Clubs International. And now, from all Lions in this room who are proud and happy to have you as members of the Lions Club of _____, I want to hear... for these new Lions... a great big round of applause.