

SGI USA MEMO

DATE: March 10, 2006

MEMO NO: ORG-008

DISTRIBUTE TO: All Leaders
FROM: High School Leaders - David Beber and Mahogany Gamble
Junior High School Leaders – John Wen and Victoria Kraus
SUBJECT: Junior High and High School Conference at Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo July 6-10, 2006

Happy Year of Youth and Dynamic Growth! We are thrilled to be holding our Jr. High and High School Conference at SUA for the second year in a row. We hope to bring more engaging and exciting sessions to this year's conference.

SGI President Ikeda has said, "Soka University of America is a sanctuary of humanistic education whose purpose is to enable you to grow into people of towering intellect, character and principles." Remaining true to these words, we hope this conference will help our future leaders discover their unlimited potential, and further develop their capabilities, courage and confidence in faith.

Below please find more information about our conference, themed "Be the Center of Dynamic Growth! *Unleashing Our Full Potential Through Faith, Practice and Study.*"

When:

Thursday, July 6 – Monday, July 10, 2006

(Please note that this is a 5-day conference, as opposed to the 4-day FNCC schedule.)

Where:

Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo, California

1 University Drive

Aliso Viejo, CA 92656

(Please do not call the university directly for inquiries about this conference.)

Conference Fee:

The conference fee for 2006 is \$400, which can only be paid by cash or check—credit card payments cannot be processed. This fee includes transportation from the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) to Soka University of America and back, as well as room and board for the duration of the conference. For those driving to/from the conference, the fee remains the same.

Who is eligible to attend?:

—SGI-USA members, 12 years of age or older as of July 6, 2006 or who are entering junior high school in the fall **or**

—Youth leaders who are actively taking responsibility within the JHHS divisions, or who will be in the near future, and are participating in their district activities

SGI MEMO

This is a leadership development conference focused on strengthening each person's faith in Nichiren Buddhism. In order to create the most valuable experience possible, we have high expectations that all participants will demonstrate maturity and express a desire to work for peace. This is not based on age and we anticipate that many of our youngest members will fulfill these criteria.

However, we feel it is important for us to stress that applicants for this conference be responsible and demonstrate interest in attending, as this conference will not be appropriate for those who are not interested in deepening their faith and developing leadership capability. We ask that all participants' attire reflect the seriousness and spirit behind this conference.

How to apply:

- 1. Step One:** Please submit the conference application, consent form and a check or cash in the amount of \$400 to your local zone office. Because the JHHS Conference is popular, please try to submit your application by April 15. **(Note: This first step does not guarantee that the applicant has been accepted to attend the conference)**
- 2. Step Two:** Your zone JHHS conference representative will call each applicant for a phone interview to learn more about the applicant and share the spirit of the conference. Based on the phone interview, they will determine the accepted applicants and submit those names to your local zone office.
- 3. Step Three:** Based on the list provided by the JHHS representative, the zone office will then fill the allotment of Jr. High School and High School young men and young women. The zone office staff will call each applicant to let them know whether they have been confirmed in the initial allotment or have been put on the waiting list. At this time, the zone office staff will instruct those accepted to make flight arrangements.

Note: Please **DO NOT** make flight reservations before receiving confirmation from your zone office staff. We are unable to accommodate students who arrive at the conference but whose applications were not accepted. They will be sent home at the parent's expense.

Important Application Information:

If the allotments for Jr. High School and High School young men and young women are not filled by May 1, the zone will open its allotment and some students will be accepted from the waiting list. Those accepted at this point will be contacted by their local zone office staff.

Nationwide allotment will open for those zones that have not filled their seats by June 1.

Please contact your local zone office for more information.