

Leo to Lion

Transition Best Practices

This supplemental guide to the **Continuing the Leo to Lion Service Journey** PowerPoint, found at lionsclubs.org/LeoAdvisorTraining, includes additional information and best practices to support Leos on their journey to continue their service commitment as Lion members. These helpful best practices were developed during focus group discussions held with Leo club advisors, Leo club presidents and district/multiple district Leo chairpersons from each constitutional area.



WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Supporting Leos and Young Lions strengthens the entire Lions International organization the same way supporting every member of your own family, especially the youngest, strengthens the bond and potential for success for each member.

START HERE

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A Leo's journey to becoming a Lion begins **the day a young person becomes a Leo!**

REPORTING LEOS

The most important thing you can do for Leos at the beginning of their journey is to report your Leos to Lions Clubs International via MyLCI to ensure communication, credit for years of service and eligibility to serve as Leo-Lions. Leo records should include accurate and unique email addresses—addresses not shared with another Leo or Lion member.

Records should be reviewed annually to ensure that all Leo information is up to date.

You can learn more about the Leo Club Advisory Panel at lionsclubs.org/LeoAdvisoryPanel, and you can find helpful information about Leo district or multiple district liaisons at lionsclubs.org/CabinetCouncilLiaison.

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MAKE THE JOURNEY FUN

POSITIVE ROLE MODELS AND EXPERIENCES MATTER!

As a Leo club advisor or Leo chairperson, you play a significant role in your Leos' decision to continue as Lions members, but success requires more than just you. Therefore, it's important to evaluate how other Lions in your district and multiple district "partner" with Leos.

Many well-intended Lions don't understand how best to partner with young people. Offering Lions successful strategies to be positive role models will enhance their experience as well as the Leos they serve with.

Remind Lions to think about how positive role models in their young lives **inspired them.**

Best practices:

- Invite Leos to **participate** in Lion meetings and include **their ideas** in planning service events.
- Plan joint Leo and Lion service projects with several clubs in your area rather than just the sponsoring Leo club. This will build relationships between Leos and Lions in your area.
- Ensure that Leos will participate as true partners with Lions rather than being tasked to set up and clean up.
- Allow Leos to shadow Lions — **side by side** — during district and multiple district events to cultivate learning opportunities.
- Prepare Leos to take on leadership roles at the club level and higher. Introduce Leos early to the opportunities to serve with Lions on the **Leo Club Advisory Panel** and as **Leo district cabinet or Leo multiple district liaisons**.
- Invite Leo-Lions to Leo meetings and ask them to share how they are continuing to serve in ways that inspire them. Then help Leos organize events so they can serve with Leo-Lions.

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THE ROAD AHEAD

With so many benefits, the Leo-Lion program is the clear membership choice for Leos.

Make sure you are familiar with the **Leo-Lion program** and its many benefits, including discounted international dues, special leadership training and roles, and scholarship opportunities.

Visit lionsclubs.org/LeoLion to familiarize yourself with the Leo-Lion program.

Talk to Leos about their future plans. Understand the different choices and challenges Alpha and Omega Leos face **today** compared to your past experiences.

Find out what they want to do, not what you assume they'll do.

Before heading down a road that leads to a roadblock, discuss the facts of the following paths your Leos are considering and the club options available.

For Leos preparing for post-secondary schools:

- The focus of many university applications and interviews is a prospective student's volunteer record. Schools are interested in students who will represent their mission statement and goals and giving back to one's community is a priority characteristic of those considered for acceptance.
- Many schools require service hours to maintain "good standing" in addition to a student's required grade point average.
- Scholarships may include a record of service hours to receive and maintain financial support.
- In many parts of the world, schools are filled with students who are members of service clubs and organizations. They will be invited to join and volunteer their time and talents. Why not as Lions?

Discuss how joining or chartering a **Leo-Lion club** with other former Leos and career-minded Young Lions offers opportunities to keep serving with friends and growing their professional network. Visit lionsclubs.org/LeoLion to learn more.

For Leos starting their job search:

- Employers look for candidates who offer a well-rounded professional resume. This includes a record of leadership in professional and service organizations.
- Many companies today understand the importance of stewardship and sponsor community outreach programs for their employees.
- Hiring managers look for candidates who offer well-rounded experience that demonstrate their company's shared values.

Discuss how joining or chartering a **Campus Lions club or student club** will allow Leos to serve their local and global communities while attending post-secondary school. Visit lionsclubs.org/CampusLionsClub to learn more.

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ENSURING A SMOOTH TRANSITION

For Leos starting their families:

No doubt that life is very hectic for those in their twenties and thirties. During this time, many Leos are moving from school to careers and even starting new families of their own.

Still, many of our Young Lions find serving as a great way to socialize with new and long-time friends, share life experiences and find support among their peers.

The **Family Membership program** helps save on membership costs and can offer Young Lions an opportunity to easily plan fun and meaningful things to do together when they serve together. You can find more information about the Family Membership program at lionsclubs.org/FamilyMembership.

The **Cub program** is a great option for their own “future Leos.”

Young Lions with small children can model the importance of community outreach while spending a fun day together cleaning up a park, collecting toys and books for childhood cancer patients, or doing other child-centered service projects.

ARE THE CLUBS IN YOUR AREA READY FOR THE NEXT GENERATION?

Young Lions may be excited about reaching their destination as new Lions members, but that feeling will be short-lived if they find that their club is not supportive and respectful of their ideas.

It is important that young members know that there are equal opportunities for them to share their ideas, plan service events, take on leadership roles and serve as equal partners.

To learn more helpful strategies to partner with Young Lions, read the [Connecting to Young Lions Guide](#). Then, learn more about the club types younger members find attractive in the [Young Lions Membership Guide](#). You can find these resources at lionsclubs.org/YoungLions.

KINDNESS MATTERS

Many areas have cost-prohibitive dues. Consider waiving or lowering club and regional dues for Young Lions.

EASY STEPS IN MyLCI TO TRANSFER LEOS TO LIONS MEMBERSHIP

The process to transfer a Leo to a Lions club has never been easier. The following features are important to Leos and are now built into the transfer process in MyLCI:

- Leo-Lions retain their Leo IDs as their new membership number.
- Years of Leo service is automatically credited to the Lion record.
- Dual memberships can be chosen by leaving the Leo end date open.

To learn how to transfer Leos to Lions clubs in MyLCI, follow the steps shown in this [guide](#) or [video](#), which can be found at lionsclubs.org/Leo-Lion. There, you can also find out more about dual memberships.



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RECOGNITION FOR A ROAD WELL TRAVELED

EXCLUSIVE LEO-LION PIN

One of the most honored traditions for Leo-Lions is proudly wearing their **exclusive Leo-Lion membership pin**. Celebrate with a special ceremony at your next district event recognizing everyone who supports Leos and the transition of Leo-Lions in your area.

Don't forget to capture all the fun in photos and post words of pride and encouragement.

#ProudLeoLion

IMPORTANT:

- Work with your Lions club secretaries — **it is crucial** to ensure that each Leo-Lion has the **correct address and email** in their NEW Lions record so that their complementary pin reaches them from Lions International.
- Keep in mind that the address in their Leo record may not be the address of where they currently reside.

(Note: Complimentary Leo-Lion pins are mailed out from Lions International one month after a Leo-Lion is recorded in MyLCI)

LION AWARDS

Lions International offers two award certificates recognizing Lions who guide Leos through the decision to become Leo-Lion members and for supporting newly chartered Leo-Lion clubs.

- Lion officers must be reported to Lions International to be eligible for these special club, district and multiple district level award certificates.
- Learn more about the **Leo to Leo-Lion Membership Awards** at lionsclubs.org/LeoLion.

We are one family united in service and the Lions International team at our headquarters office is eager to help you support Young Lions and the communities we serve. Reach out to membership@lionsclubs.org for assistance. Thank you for your service!