



Sponsoring a new club

Inspired, passionate members make the global mission of Lions International possible. Satisfied members, supported by strong leaders, have the greatest impact on their communities. When you sponsor a new club, you're using your knowledge and experience to help new members discover the incredible world of Lions International and reach their fullest potential.

So how does the process work? There are important roles and responsibilities involved, and this guide will help you better understand what to expect.

Club formation

Any club in good standing can sponsor a Lions club within its district. The primary sponsoring club must be from the new club's district. However, a co-sponsor may come from any area. Use the checklist below to guide you through the steps required in sponsoring a new club.

Sponsoring club responsibilities:

- Support the guiding Lion(s)
- Check that all charter-member applicants meet the standards of being a Lions member
- Hold an in-depth organizational meeting
- Ensure that the chartered club has proper orientation into Lions International
- Co-host Charter Night
- Encourage district participation
- Encourage interclub functions
- Help develop a membership retention and growth plan
- Assist in preparing the club's meeting agenda
- Support the club's activities
- Assist the club whenever called upon
- Provide guidance without interfering

Sponsoring club assistance

Once the new club has received its charter, the sponsoring club should continue offering support where needed:

- The sponsoring club's officers often visit new clubs during regular meetings, assist with activities and meet with the new club's officers to familiarize them with Lions' policies and procedures.
- Some sponsoring clubs will co-host a meeting or two for the new club until the new club officers feel comfortable leading meetings on their own.
- Successful sponsoring clubs continue supporting club officers through personal contact and by offering counsel and advice when needed. These sponsors also know when to take a step back and let the new club find its own way.

Transition of power

The goal is to develop a strong, self-sufficient Lions club. As the officers are elected, the sponsoring club, guiding Lions or other mentor should begin encouraging them to take control of meetings and activities and delegate responsibilities to other club members to get them involved. However, it's important to avoid overwhelming these new officers — instead, gauge their leadership ability and offer support and guidance only when needed.

Membership Division

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