

Providing Ongoing Support to Lions Quest Schools



Our most successful Lions Quest implementations bring together the school, home and community ensuring that students are building social and emotional skills inside and outside of the classroom. Lions Clubs are able to support student success beyond the classroom in a number of different ways.

Communication is Key

Through conversations with your school's administration, your club can learn about different ways to partner with the school and reinforce the skills and values taught in the Lions Quest program. As you have these discussions, it is best to consider the following:

- What kind of activities would your members be **able/willing** to participate in?
- Would your club prefer to offer hands-on support or financial support?
- What kind of support would your local school desire most from your members?
- Does your club already participate in service activities that Lions Quest students could benefit from? Ex: eye screenings, youth camps, Peace Poster Contest, etc.

Program Areas Strengthened by Community Involvement

Positive School Climate

Students learn best when they feel safe, have strong and positive relationships within their school, home and community, and have well-maintained and appropriate facilities to learn in. When you visit your local Lions Quest school ask yourself:

- Are there things my club can do to improve the physical environment of the school? This can be anything from painting hallways to providing posters on topics addressed in Lions Quest such as empathy or respect.

Bullying Prevention/Drug and Alcohol Prevention

These topics are specifically addressed within the Lions Quest program and could be one of the reasons your local school chose Lions Quest.

- Can your club sponsor activities during a drug awareness or bullying prevention week? Would the school be interested in bringing in a speaker related to these topics, and is that something the Lions club can sponsor?

Parent Engagement

Within the program, schools are provided a number of different ways to engage parents in the program. One way in which parents are engaged is through parent meetings, which align with the Lions Quest classroom lessons. Lions Quest parent meetings can be stand-alone events or wrapped into an existing parent engagement program.

- If your school chooses to do a parent meeting, how can your club make it a success? Can you provide refreshments, volunteers or perhaps offer babysitting for parents with young children?

Service Learning

A typical Lions Quest program ends the year with an entire unit focused on service learning and the planning of a service project. Furthermore, many students participate in service activities throughout the year.

- How can your club members support student service projects? With a donation or perhaps by volunteering assistance? Inviting students to volunteer at your club's service projects can be rewarding for everyone involved and shows students the importance of giving back to their community.

Ideas for Lion – School Collaboration

There are many ways Lions clubs can stay connected to the schools that are implementing the Lions Quest program. Building an ongoing relationship between Lions club members and their local schools is essential to sustaining the program and determining the actual impact on students! The following are some ways to stay connected to Lions Quest schools during and after the workshop:

- Have interested Lions volunteer and participate in the teacher training workshops.
- Consider assigning a Lion to each school to provide ongoing support and communication regarding future volunteer opportunities and service learning projects in each classroom.
- Maintain a relationship with the school staff member overseeing the project by having monthly/quarterly contact by phone/email.
- Host an Open House for teachers and parents to celebrate the implementation of Lions Quest in that school.
- Gather success stories from the teachers and administrators that are implementing the program. Publicize those stories locally and share successes with LCIF.
- Generate local publicity for program achievement (Lions club/district newsletters, community newsletters, Facebook, online blogs.)
- Plan a recognition event at the end of the school year for teachers, students and Lions that were involved with program implementation.
- Set a date for club members to visit the schools to do a presentation on the importance of service.
- Coordinate service projects between students and Lions.
- Invite a Lions Quest-trained teacher to a club meeting to present on the program at their school.
- Host an annual club fundraiser to support the ongoing costs of Lions Quest student materials for the school.
- Encourage teachers and parents to become Lions members.
- Encourage the school to participate in other Lions youth activities like the Peace Poster Contest, the Reading Action Program and essay contests, or encourage schools to start a Leo club.

Lions Quest

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