



SRI SATHYA SAI GLOBAL COUNCIL

ZONE 1 - CANADA • U.S.A. • WEST INDIES

SSSGC Zone 1 Center Officer Selection Guidelines

Principles

The most important principle is to follow Swami's guidance and teachings. The process requires all to exhibit the principles of love, unity, and sacrifice. It is a spiritual, not political endeavor that is via selection, not election. The goal is to give as many people as possible a chance to serve as officers over the years. The suggestions of the active members of a center should be of prime consideration.

Definitions

Active Member:

An active member is a person at least 18 years of age, who has filled out an active membership form at their center and who has been regularly attending center activities for at least the past 4 months. Final determination of status is made by the center president.

Center Size

Determined by number of active members, with a small center comprised of 11-20 active members, a medium center comprised of 21-40 active members, and a large center comprised of greater than 40 members. With approval from the regional president, special considerations to the selection process may be allowed for small centers

Group

If less than 10 active members are present, the classification used is "Group". A group needs only one person to serve as the leader who is responsible for organizing activities and facilitating communication with the rest of the organization. Members of the group can be assigned to represent the group in the various wings of the overall organization

Center Selection Committee (CSC)

Consists of 5 members. The center president, a regional officer (who is not part of the center), and 3 senior members, one selected by the center president, one selected by the center vice president and one selected by the regional president. (For some very large centers, 2 additional members may be added with approval from the regional president.)

Officer Eligibility

1. Has full faith in the Sri Sathya Sai Avatar
2. Is a registered active member of the SSSGC center, who has been regularly attending center activities for the past year and is willing to serve in the role.
3. Will dedicate the time and effort that Swami's organization deserves

4. Agrees to abide by SSSGC and Zone 1 guidelines
5. Holds no position in any other spiritual organization
6. Has no spiritual business activity that may be construed as a conflict of interest (e.g. professional yoga or music instructor)
7. Those who have served two terms as officers from 2021, are required to give a chance to new officers.

Ideally, a center president should have served as an officer in the past, the educational coordinator should have current teacher training certification (or be willing to obtain within the first few months). The young adult coordinator should also be an active member of the center. Large centers may choose to have both a male and female young adult coordinator.

Overview

The center president explains the overall selection process to all members and in advance announces timeline including all relevant dates. Any active member can suggest names for consideration for various officer positions to any member of the CSC, which verifies eligibility and keeps a confidential record of all submitted names, which are not revealed until the center selection meeting is held.

Selection Meeting

The meeting is led by the CLC with only active members participating. Attendance is taken and meetings records kept confidentially. The meeting should start with opening prayers including a prayer to Swami to guide the process by speaking through each one's inner conscience. The names of those who have been suggested for positions is revealed for the first time. No discussion should take place. Each active member is asked to pray, reflect and write down their recommendations for each officer position. The CSC collects the suggestions and meets privately to discuss, while members can participate in devotional singing.

Guidance for Center Selection Committee (CLC)

They should consider multiple factors in making final selections. Preference should be given for allowing new people to take positions. They should strive to achieve balance by taking into account relevant demographic and geographic considerations. The total number of suggestions received by a candidate should only be one of many factors given consideration. Ultimately, they should be united and unanimous in their decisions.

Announcement and Approval

The CLC returns to the bhajan hall to notify members of the selections that will be submitted to the regional/national level for approval and the selection meeting concludes with closing prayers/Aarati. The CSC submits all documentation of proceedings to the regional/national president including each newly selected officers' email, phone, and home address. The national president, after consultation with the Zone Chair, makes the 2-year term of service official.