



SGI-USA Central Territory Memo

DATE: April 24, 2010

MEMO NO: TERR-005 TXOK

DISTRIBUTE TO: All Members in Texas/Oklahoma Zone

FROM: Central Territory Organization Department

REVISED INFORMATION:

SUBJECT: July 10th Central Territory Youth Culture Festival in Chicago – Participant Confirmations and Payments

The SGI-USA Central Territory Youth Culture Festival will be held on Saturday, July 10 at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Pavilion. The theme is “America, Let’s Open a New Era Together with Sensei – Champions of Decisive Victory.” At the festival there will be various speakers, experiences in faith, a declaration of a shared vow of mentor and disciple and dynamic youth performances.

Our primary focus towards our July Youth Culture Festival is to inspire and awaken our current Youth and Elementary School Division membership with the vision that this festival is to gather emerging disciples to participate in what is going to be the “March 16th” and “Entrustment Ceremony” of the Central Territory Youth.

As you know, on March 16, 1958 in Japan, 6,000 youth gathered and stood up to take the baton of kosen-rufu from Josei Toda. It is the determination of the youth of Central Territory to call out to our mentor, Daisaku Ikeda, and proudly declare that the Youth of Central Territory are the “Champions of Decisive Victory.” It is their vision that every single youth will have a breakthrough in their own practice in preparation towards this festival and leave with a renewed determination to take the lead. As a result the path will open for Sensei to fulfill his dream of spending the culminating years of his life in the America that he loves.

In addition to having our Youth Culture Festival being open to all SGI-USA youth members, including Elementary School Division, we to want respond to our mentor’s call to expand our circle of friends. President Ikeda shared: “Expanding our circle of friends is the very essence of kosen-rufu. Let's strive to increase the number of friends with whom we can talk freely and openly, friends we can trust with all our hearts” (12/24/09 *World Tribune*).

Therefore, in keeping with Sensei’s determination, we will continue to increase the number of Bodhisattvas of the Earth through our propagation efforts. And at the same time, we would like to open our festival to those youth guests with whom we have engaged in dialogue about our Buddhist practice and especially those youth guests that are currently engaged in our Rock the Era activities.

Just as Sensei shared, “let’s enable as many people as possible to form a connection with Buddhism by talking to them with confidence and conviction” and at the same time encourage all our youth and ESD members to attend our July Culture Festival and take the baton for the entrustment of kosen-rufu for the next 50 years and beyond.

TEXAS/OKLAHOMA ZONE YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

A total of 1330 Texas/Oklahoma Zone Youth Representatives will participate in the Central Territory Youth Festival. Below is the breakdown for your zone. Please note that these allotments may be **increased** if your zone's youth exceeds this number.

Texas/Oklahoma Zone Youth Performers	375
Texas/Oklahoma Zone General Youth Participants	880
<u>Texas/Oklahoma BSG</u>	<u>75</u>
Texas/Oklahoma Zone Total:	1330

In addition to the SGI-USA youth and youth guests, there will be Elementary School Division (ESD) members, ESD parents and chaperones from the Men's and Women's Division to support the Youth and ESD attending this event. The allotment above **does not include** these individuals. More information is listed in next section.

*****Please note that every person participating/attending the Central Territory Youth Culture Festival needs to confirm their attendance by submitting an application together with their participation fee. See remainder of memo for more information*****

TEXAS/OKLAHOMA ZONE APPROVED CHAPERONES

Currently there will be one MD or WD Chaperone for every 20 confirmed youth. This is approximately 66 chaperones for Texas/Oklahoma Zone. Chaperones should be added as the youth fill their allotment. In addition, chaperones should hold a Men's or Women's Division Chapter and up leadership level and must be approved by the zone level leaders. Please contact your zone leaders or zone office for more information regarding "Approved Chaperones."

TEXAS/OKLAHOMA ZONE ESD MEMBERS AND APPROVED ESD PARENTS AND ESD CHAPERONES

Currently, the allotment set for the Elementary School Division is 30 ESD members for Texas/OK Zone. Please note that this allotment may be increased if there are a greater number of ESD members who desire to attend. Because of the age of ESD members, one parent per family may attend together with their ESD children. This parent will be allowed into the venue together with their ESD member(s) for the event. However, if both parents attend, one parent will be participating at an offsite location where they will be able to watch by video.

Also, we are encouraging all ESD members to be a performer in the ESD fan dance at the start of the culture festival. Also, there will be additional chaperones specifically dedicated to the ESD members that will be approved by the zone. This allotment will depend upon the number of ESD parents attending with their children. For any ESD related questions, please contact your Texas/Oklahoma Zone office and/or ESD leaders.

PACKAGE PRICE FOR TEXAS/OKLAHOMA ZONE

For Texas/Oklahoma Zone, there are 3 different package price options to choose from. Please note that all transportation to/from Chicago is the participant's responsibility. Therefore **transportation to/from Chicago is not included** in the package price.

In consideration of safety, we are encouraging all Texas/Oklahoma Zone participants to travel to/from Chicago by airplane. Flights should arrive into either Chicago Midway Airport (MDW) or Chicago O'Hare Airport (ORD) between the hours of 12:00pm – 7:00pm (on Thursday, July 8 or Friday, July 9 depending on your package) and depart Sunday, July 11 in the morning/early afternoon.

The zone may be able to assist with group flight arrangements. Please contact your local zone office or zone leaders for more information.

Participants may also travel by other means. However, due to liability issues, local organizations should not organize any type of group arrangements outside of flights (i.e. carpools, van movements, etc.). Participants not traveling by airplane are on their own. These individuals may still purchase the Chicago ground packages (option 2 and 3 below) that include hotel accommodations, but must find their own transportation to the control center at the Chicago Culture Center on the day of their arrival so they may check in. Please contact your local zone office or zone leaders for more information.

OPTION #1: \$15.00 PER PERSON

(Does NOT include hotel, any transportation or any meals)

We have lowered the price of this option from the previous memo. It was \$20 and is now \$15. In addition, we have opened this option up to everyone.

This fee is for the participation fee that covers each person's confirmation of attendance, entrance to the culture festival venue & commemorative festival items (t-shirt, etc.). This option may be used for the following individuals:

- a. Any general youth participant, ESD or ESD parent who will be on their own in Chicago (i.e. those staying with family/friends) and will only be attending the youth culture festival as a spectator. These individuals would go directly to the UIC Pavilion the day of the event.
- b. Any youth performer who will be on their own in Chicago (i.e. those staying with family/friends). These individuals must attend the all day rehearsal/run-through on Friday and arrive early on the day of the event in preparation for the performance. They will need to have their own transportation to and from the venue on both days. ****In consideration of the performers' rehearsal/performance schedule on Friday and Saturday, the performers will have their meals covered and it will be served at the UIC Pavilion.**

OPTION #2: \$275.00 PER PERSON (CHICAGO GROUND PACKAGE)
4-DAYS/3-NIGHTS FOR THURS., JULY 8 TO SUN., JULY 11
(Does NOT include transportation to/from Chicago)

In consideration of the performers' rehearsal and performance schedules on Friday and Saturday, the performers will have their meals covered and it will be served at the UIC Pavilion.

This Chicago ground package is for Youth Performers and those BSG & Chaperones supporting the performers. This package includes the following:

- a. Accommodations for 4 days/ 3 nights (double occupancy) at a local hotel or dormitory with check-in on Thursday, July 8th and check-out on Sunday, July 11.
- b. All meals on Friday and Saturday due to rehearsal/performance schedule (meals will be served at the UIC Pavilion) and Sunday's breakfast at the hotel.
- c. Participation fee that covers confirmation of attendance, festival entrance & commemorative festival items (t-shirt, etc.).
- d. Transportation to and from venue (UIC) for rehearsals and day of event.

****For those individuals arriving by plane on Thurs., July 9 and departing on Sun., July 11, transportation to/from Midway or O'Hare airport is included (transportation will either be by train or bus depending on what's most efficient at that time).****

OPTION #3: \$175.00 PER PERSON (CHICAGO GROUND PACKAGE)
3-DAYS/2-NIGHT FOR FRI., JULY 9 TO SUN., JULY 11
(Does NOT include transportation to/from Chicago or any meals)

This Chicago ground package is for all youth general participants, all ESD and those BSG/Chaperones/ESD parents supporting general participants. This package includes the following:

- a. Accommodations for 3 days/2 nights (double occupancy) at a local hotel or dormitory with check-in on Friday, July 9th and check-out on Sunday, July 11.
- b. Participation fee that covers confirmation of attendance, festival entrance & commemorative festival items (t-shirt, etc.).
- c. Transportation to and from venue (UIC) on day of event.

****For those individuals arriving by plane on Fri., July 9 and departing on Sun., July 11, transportation to/from Midway or O'Hare airport is included (transportation will either be by train or bus depending on what's most efficient at that time).****

APPLICATION & PAYMENT FOR FESTIVAL CONFIRMATION

Each individual participating/attending the youth culture festival should submit an application together with their payment and the consent form for minors (if applicable) in the following ways:

- Cash, check or money order – In person at your Rock the Era practices and local SGI-USA community/activity centers. Please contact your zone office for other collection opportunities.
- Check or money order – Please mail completed application along with payment (payable to SGI-USA) to: SGI-USA Texas/OK Zone Office, July Youth Culture Festival, 2600 N. Stemmons Fwy, Suite 190, Dallas, TX 75207
- Credit Card – This will be available online after May 1st. Until that time you may use the FNCC credit card application and submit it along with application to SGI-USA Central Territory office by email (centralfest@sgi-usa.org) or dedicated fax line for festival payments at 312-896-5679.

DEADLINES FOR PAYMENT & APPLICATION

The deadline for submitting the application and payment for the festival is as follows:

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|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| ➤ Those arriving on Thurs., July 8 | Due Sunday, June 6 |
| ➤ Those arriving on Fri., July 9 | Due Sunday, June 6 |
| ➤ Anyone on their own: | Due Sunday, June 13 |

***** Please note that individuals will not be confirmed until their participant fee has been paid. Also all minors must have a consent form completed.*****

REFUND FOR CANCELLATION

A full refund will be issued if any participant cancels on or before June 13, 2010. After June 13, any participant that cancels will only receive full refund if he or she is replaced by another participant.

QUESTIONS:

For further information and/or any questions regarding this memo or the youth culture festival, please contact your local zone leaders or Mimi Utsumi at the SGI-USA Texas/Oklahoma Zone office at the Dallas Community Center 214-559-4115 or mutsumi@sgi-usa.org. You may also contact Kimberly Herrmann at the SGI-USA Central Territory Office by phone (312-447-2229) or by email (centralfest@sgi-usa.org). See you in July in Chicago!



July 10th Central Territory Youth Culture Festival

REVISED TEXAS/OKLAHOMA ZONE APPLICATION

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OPTION

- \$275.00: Those arriving Thursday, July 8**
(For Youth Performers and those BSG/Chaperones supporting Performers)
- \$175.00: Those arriving Friday, July 9**
(For General YD Participants, ESD/ESD Parents & those BSG/Chaperones supporting general participants)
- \$15.00: Those arriving Saturday, July 10 Same Day or traveling on their own**
(For Youth Performers, General YD Participants or ESD/ESD parents completely on own)

YD Groups: (choose a group) <input type="checkbox"/> Music Corps <input type="checkbox"/> Chorus <input type="checkbox"/> Flags <input type="checkbox"/> Dance <input type="checkbox"/> Behind the Scenes Group (BSG)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Percussion (Taiko, Korean Drummers, etc) <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Support (Zone/Region Ldrs not performing or BSG)			
Youth General Participant & ESD: <input type="checkbox"/> YD/ESD General Participant (audience) <input type="checkbox"/> ESD Fan Dance <input type="checkbox"/> YD Guest			
Non-Youth: (approval <u>REQUIRED</u> by Zone) <input type="checkbox"/> Men's or Women's Division Chaperone <input type="checkbox"/> ESD Parent			
<input type="checkbox"/> Men's or Women's Division District Representative (See memo TERR-006 for info)			
Your Organization Information:			
Zone: Texas/Oklahoma Zone		Region:	
Area:	Chapter:	District:	
Division:		Position:	
Your Personal Information:			
Participant's Name:			
Address:			
City:	State:	ZIP Code:	
Primary Phone:		Secondary Phone:	
<input type="checkbox"/> cell <input type="checkbox"/> work <input type="checkbox"/> home		<input type="checkbox"/> cell <input type="checkbox"/> work <input type="checkbox"/> home	
Date of Birth: (month / day / year)		Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
E-mail:		T-Shirt Size: (check one)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> XS <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL	
Are you Vegetarian:		Are you Vegan:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
		Do you have any other special dietary needs?	
Any Allergies or other health concerns?		Any special needs (physical or health restrictions, etc.)?	
Emergency contact's Name:		Relationship to you:	
Primary Phone:		Secondary Phone:	

***** Please note you will not be confirmed until your participant fee has been paid. *****

- In person – by cash, check or money order at RTE practices or at your local SGI-USA Community/Activity Center
- Mail – by check or money order paid to SGI-USA. (Mail to Texas/OK Zone, 2600 N. Stemmons Fwy, # 190, Dallas, TX 75207)
- Credit Card – Available online after May 1st (you may use FNCC Credit Card Application until then)

Zone Use Only: Payment Information

Amount:	Method: (circle one) Cash MO/Check (pls add #)_____ CCard	Receipt #:
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CONSENT AND RELEASE FROM LIABILITY

Minor's Name: _____

I, _____, hereby acknowledge that it is my desire (for my child) to participate in SGI-USA sponsored activities **at various locations in preparation for and including the Central Territory Youth Culture Festival**, which will take place the weekend of July 10/11, 2010 and will be held in Chicago at the University of Illinois.

I AM (my child is) VOLUNTARILY PARTICIPATING IN THIS ACTIVITY, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM SUCH ACTIVITY, WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE POSSIBLE DANGERS INVOLVED AND HEREBY AGREE TO ACCEPT ANY AND ALL RISKS OF INJURY AS A RESULT OF SUCH PARTICIPATION AND TRANSPORTATION.

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

HEALTH HISTORY (include any allergies or required medications): _____

As lawful consideration for SGI-USA permitting my child to participate in the activity, I hereby release and discharge SGI-USA from all actions, claims or demands I and my heirs, distributees, guardians, legal representatives or assigns now have or may hereafter have for any injury or damages resulting from negligence or other acts, however caused. I consent to (have my child) appear in photographs or video footage taken in connection with SGI-USA activities.

Further, I hereby give my permission to the physician, nurse, or dentist selected by SGI-USA to secure medical and dental aid as required for illness or injury under a physician's orders, including transportation to and from the necessary facilities.

I HAVE READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND AN ASSUMPTION OF RISKS AND SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

The Consent and Release from Liability shall remain effective until the completion of the activity and my child's return to my immediate custody.

Date

Signature

Relationship