

Educational Services

“The International Association of Lions Clubs, cognizant of its humanitarian role in society and the relationship between nature and culture and human life, asserts that man can come to an authentic and full humanity only through the cultivation of those natural qualities and values which will enhance the integral development of the human person, the good of the community and society in general.”

Education is one of the most important keys to human advancement and improvement. Each Lions Club should determine how it can best contribute to education in the community or assist programs in other areas.

Duties of the Committee

1. Studies educational needs of the community and what is being done to meet those needs.
2. Purposes one or more service activities to the club board of directors.
3. Assumes responsibility, as directed by the board, for performance of the activities adopted.

Organizational Meeting

1. Chairman checks first with the president as to goals for the year and budget considerations; and with the vice president, under whose responsibility the committee operates, as to the committee duties. Extends invitation in both officers to attend all meetings.
2. Sets date, time and place for meeting; notifies committee members at least one week in advance.
3. Presents any unfinished plans of the previous year’s committee, ideas and goals for the year, and the ways of promoting and ensuring the success of these goals through work of the committee itself or of the entire club.
4. Reads list of suggested activities from this source, asks for additional input, leads discussion about community needs, and considers the action to be taken.
5. Specifies those activities in which committee members have shown interest
Clarifies the following questions.
 - a) Type of activity.
 - b) What will be the reaction of the community to this activity?
 - c) What will be the reaction of club member?
 - d) How greatly will the community or the individual benefit?
 - e) How long will it take to complete this activity?
 - f) How much will it cost, and how will it be financed?
6. After thorough discussion directs committee to narrow choice to two or three activities, long-range or short-range as seem best for club plans.
7. With assistance of committee members prepares written committee report to be submitted to the board of directors.

Suggested Activities

1. Establish a scholarship program; or contribute to an existing one for local deserving students for secondary schools, vocational schools or colleges. Always consult first with school administration and faculty regarding award factors (such as academic standing, extra-curricular participation, citizenship, leadership and financial need).
2. Provide grants to teachers or students of special education classes for attendance at seminars, forums, special clinics, etc.
3. Sponsor speech or essay contests and award prizes or partial scholarships to the winners.
4. Consider sponsoring a student through the Vocational Assistance Program (refer to President's Book, international relations section).

Teacher/Student Recognitions

1. Present awards (certificates, plaques, trophies, cash awards) to teachers or students for scholarship or school participation.
2. Sponsor club or public events honoring teachers for distinguished service, retirement, or for special achievement such as honorary degrees or other awards of excellence.
3. Sponsor club or public events honoring students for academic excellence, athletic achievement, leadership and citizenship service.
4. Sponsor talent competition for specific groups of students (i.e. handicapped)

Career Planning

1. Furnish materials to community schools on the types of careers available to local students.
2. Arrange tours for students through local business, industry, governmental and social agencies to familiarize them with a range of career opportunities.
3. Arrange "Career Nights" or other presentations for students by Lions clubs members or other individuals qualified in business, industry, law, medicine, government or social services. Explain educational requirements and projected employment possibilities.
4. Cooperate with school officials in motivational programs to reduce the drop-out rate, or to encourage drop-outs to return for either full-time or even part-time education.

Vocational Training

1. Promote a vocational training program, or support an existing program by enlisting the help of local businessmen and employers to hire program graduates.
2. Contact governmental agencies and local businesses for funding or contributing materials tools or part-time instructions for vocational training programs at local schools.
3. Promote on-the-job vocational training programs which offer part-time or summer employment of students.

Adult Education

1. Sponsor and/or promote lecture or film series, study and discussion groups, seminars, workshops, classes or individual instruction, correspondence courses, educational television or radio courses. These could be held at schools, libraries, government or community organization facilities, churches or homes.
2. Work with local educational officials to sponsor and publicize adult education programs in the community.
3. Provide books and other materials needed.
4. Promote reading improvement programs and facilities for adults of the community, for adults of the community, for those with language problems, for student with special needs.
5. Obtain volunteers to tutor adult illiterates on a one-to-one basis.
6. Request information from UNESCO on their Functional Literacy Program.

Cultural Activities

1. Investigate home study programs and courses available to the community,
2. Establish or support student loan funds.
3. Promote programs for volunteers and students to help youths with special needs or handicapped children.
4. Sponsor public lectures, discussion groups, seminars.
5. Sponsor field trips to museums, libraries, art galleries, historic, natural or cultural points of interest.
6. Sponsor outings for school children to athletic events, country or city visitations, zoos, etc.
7. Obtain special prices or provide tickets to cultural events for students, the handicapped or the aged. Arrange transportation if necessary.
8. Sponsor book drives for libraries, schools or social centers; promote bookmobiles for areas not served by library facilities.

Materials and Equipment

1. Provide materials for construction, expansion, maintenance of schools.
2. Provide educational equipment and supplies as needed.

Other

1. Investigate home study programs and courses available to the community.
2. Establish or support student loan funds.
3. Promote programs for volunteers and students to help handicapped children or youth with special needs.