



# Sathya Sai International Organisation

South Africa

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## NC OFFICE BEARERS TRAINING/ORIENTATION – “BACK TO BASICS” MODULE

### Guiding documents for the SSIO include the following:

- Charter of International Sathya Sai Organisation
- Guidelines to Active Workers of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations
- Centre Activities Manual – S. Africa
- National Council Guidelines – S. Africa
- Spiritual Directives
- 10<sup>th</sup> World Conference Resolutions (2015)

### 1. Objective of OB Training/Orientation

The **Charter of Sathya Sai Organisation** expects every Sai Devotee associated with the Organisation to fully adhere to the Code of Conduct laid down therein.

However, with the increasing number of new devotees and the growing number of activities and responsibilities of the Organisation, more and more instances are noticed where devotees have not understood fully or correctly the guidelines and Sadhana laid down for every Sai devotee to qualify himself/herself for membership of the Organisation.

There is, therefore, an imperative need for bringing about a wide **awakening** among all members of the Organisation on:

- the true **Purpose** of the Sai Centres,
- the **Right conduct** expected of the Sai members
- the **Right spirit** in which the service activities are to be conducted
- the **Personal Sadhana** to be regularly done by them ; and so on...

Swami: “Some person suggested that the Presidents of these Organisations may be given a short refresher course of instruction, so that they may carry out their duties (of encouraging units to undertake Sadhana and Service) more efficiently..... .

Presidents are acknowledged by their people as **virtuous, devoted and capable of doing sustained service** to their brothers and sisters. What can a course of instruction add to their spiritual height?

This and other similar suggestions raise their heads because most of you have not grasped the **raison de ‘tre of this Organisation’s set up**. The goal is not the proliferation of activities and Centres, the multiplication of units, dotting the maps with bhajan groups or service units, but encouraging devotees/members to **become examples and inspiration to others**”.

## **2. The Challenge – “Back to Basics”**

Bhagavan Baba, while placing the Sai Movement throughout the world on a firm footing with established universal basic principles of Truth, Righteous Conduct, Peace, Love and Non-Violence, has also proclaimed as a **guiding light** for a devotee’s spiritual and personal development – **the Nine Point Code of Conduct and the Ten Principles**.

### **The Permanent Charter**

- (a) The Permanent Charter granted by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to the Sri Sathya Sai Organisations, at the Third World Conference, dated this 14th day of January in the 55th year of His Advent, Anno Domini 1981. Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, out of His infinite Grace and Mercy sends blessings to all to whom this Permanent Charter shall be seen, showed, or read. ....
- (b) The most fundamental object of this Organisation as laid down by Bhagawan is to "**Awaken in Man the awareness of the Divinity Inherent in him**" by propagating through practice and example the basic principles of Sathya (truth), Dharma (righteousness), Shanti (peace), Prema (love) and Ahimsa (non-violence) set out by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, ... .
- (c) It is hereby declared:
- That this shall be the Charter governing the Sathya Sai Organisations all over the World.
  - That all the office-bearers and members of this Organisation at present and who will join the Organisation shall be one in **Deed and Name**, by the name of Sathya Sai Organisation and as such, they shall be entitled to carry on the activities in the name of the Organisation.
  - That in order to achieve the objectives as laid down herein above, the members shall follow a **Code of Conduct of Sadhana** (spiritual exercises) so that they become worthy instruments of our Divine Master in the effort to fulfil the objectives of the Organisation.
  - That no person shall be qualified to associate himself or herself as office bearers or workers with this Organisation, who **wilfully deviates from the Code of Conduct** laid down hereafter.

### **The Challenge**

It is noteworthy that the Charter expects every Sai Devotee associated with the Organisation to fully adhere to the Code of Conduct laid down herein.

However, with the increasing number of new activities and the growing number of activities and responsibilities of the Organisation, more and more instances are noticed where devotees have not understood fully or correctly the Guidelines and Sadhana laid down for every Sai Devotee to qualify himself/herself for membership of the Organisation.

There is an imperative need for bringing about a wide awakening among all members of the Organisation on the

- true **Purpose** of the Sai Centre,
- the **Right Conduct** expected of the Sai member
- the **Right Spirit** in which the service activities are to be conducted
- the **Personal Sadhana** to be regularly done by them and so on.

## **3. Understanding we are in a Spiritual Organisation**

- **Love** is guiding principle of the Organisation (**Love is the Source, Love is the Path, Love is the Goal**).

- SSS Organisation is a stream which brings together devotees from different parts of the world. Taking us back to Divinity (source/destination of Life).
- SSS Organisation aims at establishing the essential “**Unity**” of all Faiths and to propagate through example and precept, the principles of **Sathya, Dharma, Shanthi, Prema, Ahimsa**.
- The SSS Organisation thus seeks to “**Awaken in man the awareness of Divinity inherent in him**” and thereby, enable him to help build a new order of Love and Peace, Unity and Harmony among mankind.

#### 4. **Understanding the Educare Process**

- “ You have come into the world to realise yourselves. You come fully equipped with all the instruments needed for that endeavour (discrimination, non-attachment and skill); and the urge to **enlarge your Love, enrich the emotions and ennoble your actions**. But you have lost your way..... .”
- What are the indications that ones level of spiritual consciousness is rising?
  - You recognise the “**Oneness**” of everything and everyone.
  - You begin to let go of your **Ego**-driven habit of judging and criticising others.
  - You truly understand that you create your **Reality** and all of your experiences in life.
  - You discover that the way to change the world is first to change your **thoughts, beliefs, feelings, and expectations**.
  - And you begin to enjoy lasting **Peace** instead of incessant anxiety in your life.

The outcome of the **Educare Process** in the training is to awaken in active workers and devotees the **Consciousness** of Divinity inherent in them and in creation by applying the Educare Process expounded by Swami in their daily life.

Topics covered includes:

- Creation: I am That I am
- Where is the bliss? Challenges we are facing (self, centre, work). What went wrong?
- The inner instrument (anthakarana) and its relationship with the senses
- Purification of the Mind
- Refinement of the Intellect
- Leadership and Team Building

#### 5. **Membership - Qualifications of a Member**

The essential qualifications for the members are Faith and Devotion.

##### **3 Qualifications:**

- Must be **eager** aspirant for spiritual progress.
- **Full Faith** in the **Name** of the Organisation and in spreading that Name, in the manner suited to its message and majesty.
- Members must have recognition as a **good person**.

**4 As:** Ideal Sai Leaders should possess following attributes:

- **Ability** – skill set to perform the task
- **Availability** – have the time and interest
- **Affability** – possess good nature and attitude
- **Accountability** – is the accounting officer; he/she is accountable.

The Organisation is based on **Devotion and Faith** only. Whoever has these and **loves the Organisation** has his own life, all such has a **place** in it, have a **right** to be in it.

#### **6. Who should be chosen Leaders?**

- Who has **unshaken Faith** in the Sai Avathar with this Name and Form. That will save Units from many complications later on.
- The Leaders of these Units lead because they have the **Vision and the Yearning**, and not because they have votes and money.
- **Ananda** (bliss) is the only reward they are after.
- **Detachment, Simple living, Steady Sadhana** – these are the qualities that entitle a person to member of the Units.
- No one has a place who does not possess the **skill, capacity, willingness** to carry out the responsibilities.

Before you enter the Organisation or seek office therein, consider well whether you have the **yearning and capacity**, or else if you join and complain against some person or program, you are only revealing your own smallness, weakness.

Make enquiries giving full consideration before joining the Organisation. Having joined, **cooperate** with others vigorously and **carrying out all your duties conscientiously**.

#### **7. Purpose of the Sathya Sai Organisation**

- To broaden your **Love**
- Channelize your activities through devoted **service**.
- It is dedicated to the great task of progressively **helping people to realise their Reality** (innate Divinity) and merge in it.

The above can be fulfilled through the following:

- Sense of **Unity**
- Willingness to **Sacrifice**
- Softness of **Compassion**.

Remember also that the development of this Organisation will bring **Peace and Tranquillity to the world** torn by chaos.

The World can be bettered and saved only through Spiritual progress, by the efforts of Spiritual Organisations.

#### **8. Aim of a Sathya Sai Organisation**

- You must have the firm belief that the aim of this Organisation is to remove the obstacles that keep man away from God. There can be no human; it is **all Divine**.
- The Organisation must **elevate humans into Divine**.

#### **9. The Sai Centre made up of 5 Fingers representing units of the Organisation**

- Thumb - Centre/Samithi
- 4<sup>th</sup> Pointer finger – Mahila
- Middle finger – Seva
- 2<sup>nd</sup> finger - Balvikas

- Little finger – Bhajan

The Centre/Samithi has to join the other 4 fingers so that they hold, grasp, manipulate anything. Each finger must feel that strength lie working with the rest; and **all are parts of the One**.

Thus, the need for **Integration of all wings** (the Centre is the Heart, the Units are the Limbs; the limbs cannot act independently).

#### **10. Sole Objective of the Centre - Raising our Consciousness**

- Consciousness is an **Universal field of Energy** and only accessed through Individual **Awareness**.
- How fully we can bring forth **Divinity** depends on how **Aware** we are.
- If we want to awaken our **Consciousness into Divinity**, then we will have to build our own Temple.
- **Spiritual Consciousness** implies that we are spiritually awake. It means knowing and believing the great spiritual Truths.

- Sathya Sai School:

***“A School should not be considered as a common place arrangement designed for Teaching and Learning.***

***It is a place where Consciousness is aroused and illumined, purified and strengthened.***

***The place where the Seeds of Discipline, Duty and Devotion are planted and fostered into fruition.”***

- The sole objective of the Centre, the very breath on which they thrive, is the **Consciousness of Unity of All, as One**.
- Sathya Sai Centres are built on **Love. They thrive on Love, they spread Love**, no other emotion or attitude has any place therein.
- **Serve Me, Serve yourselves** by being true, loving and active and so be examples of Truth, Love and Service to others.
- **Bhakthi or Love** is the force that draws Divinity (magnet) and humanity (iron) together. A-shanthi (Peacelessness) from which Man suffers should disappear.
- Man should attain PRA-Shanthi (inner deep rooted Peace).

Also note:

- The most important thing we can do for ourselves and the world we live in is to try to raise our level of **Spiritual Consciousness** right now in this lifetime.
- Spiritual progress is an evolutionary process - it is a gradual movement, from the lower to the higher levels. It is a movement not only from the outer to the inner, but from the lower to the higher. From the physical, the earthly, the bodily, the sensory life, the mind slowly rises to the psychological and rational fields of understanding, and then it becomes spiritual in its perspective and vision. Externally there is a gradual withdrawal for the love of physical objects, attachment to things to the value that are hidden in things.

#### **11. Sathya Sai Public Outreach**

It is an important initiative of SSIO to share Bhagavan’s Teachings with Humanity. There are 4 sub-committees:

- Need for more **Inter-faith activities** e.g. music, drama, seminars

- **Public Meetings and Community Engagement**

The SSIO to engage more actively with communities at local, national and international levels through online videos and **public meetings** (for non devotees).

- SSIO to promote **Walk for Values**.

## 12. **10<sup>th</sup> World Conference Resolutions (2015)** (refer detailed resolutions attached)

The resolutions were based on the following workshops:

- Ideal Sai Centre
- Leadership in the SSIO – Leaders should be examples of Sai Teachings
- Education programmes to spread Swami’s message
- Role of women in SSIO
- Role of Youth in SSIO
- Balancing Family, Career and SSIO
- Public Outreach – important initiative of SSIO to share Bhagavan’s Teachings with Humanity.
- Effective and Loving Communication in the SSIO
- Selfless Service

## 13. **Advice to Office Bearers**

- You are Office Bearers and so you have the responsibility to carry out in actual practice, in your own lives the rules, restrictions and recommendations laid down by Me.
- I warn you against falling prey to exhibitionism and display

## 14. **Solemn Oath**

Each member and Office Bearer must take an **Oath**, from the very depths of the heart, before engaging themselves in the activities:

### Morning prayer:

When you rise from bed at dawn, pray thus :“**Swami save me from any commission and omission which will affect adversely the 3 qualifications You have laid down. Bless me with the skills, intelligence and enthusiasm, necessary for the task I am dedicating myself to carry out for my own uplift. Guide me along the correct path; shower on me Your Grace so that I may earn a fair name in this attempt; Guard me from the temptations and wrong steps**”.

### Evening prayer:

At night, when you go to bed, ponder over your activities during the day, examining them, whether you went against any of the conditions of membership, and if any wrong had been committed, unconditionally, pray they may not happen again. Decide to dedicate yourself in this manner, with these ideals for the work ahead.

### Other Prayers:

Offer everything to God (Sai) saying:

**“Oh God! I do everything to please you and offer everything to you”.**

Offer our virtues to God (Sai) saying

***“Oh God! You are the resident of my Heart and You are the embodiment of Love, Kindness and Compassion”.***

Thank God (Sai) saying:

***“You are giving me everything I need at every moment. Let my mind partake only of Love and Truth. Let my mind be healed”.***

**AUM SAI RAM**

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