

The Indian River High School Leo Club

—Service to Others—

Looking for community service opportunities, fun with friends and/or leadership opportunities? You are invited to consider membership in the Indian River High School Leo Club. The Club is a student run organization whose goals are to provide humanitarian service within the local communities, to instill in its membership the importance of such service and to provide members with an appreciation of the fulfillment and self satisfaction that comes with serving others.

Leo Club Purpose/Mission



The Club has been helping others since it was formed in 2003 and each year attracts like-minded caring young people. Its purpose/mission is captured in its name—which is an acronym that stands for:

Leadership - Leos develop skills as organizers, time managers and motivators of their peers;

Experience - Leos learn the importance of cooperation through community service; and

Opportunity - Membership provides young people with a chance to excel, to develop positive character traits, and to receive recognition for their contributions to the community.

The Organization, its Origin and Structure

Leo clubs are sponsored by local Lions clubs through Lions Clubs International, the world's largest community service organization, with 1.3 million members across the globe. The first Leo club was started in 1957 in Pennsylvania and there are now more than 5,700 Leo clubs in 140 countries.

The Indian River Leo Club was established by the Fenwick Island Lions Club. The Club functions and is governed loosely by a Constitution and Bylaws prescribed by Lions Clubs International. Lions Club members **Jim and Carolyn Miles**—serve as liaisons with the Leo Club and its longtime Club advisor and teacher Ms. **Lonnie Riley**, and her as assistant advisor and teacher, Ms. **Laura Quillen**. You may learn more about the Indian River High School Leo Club and apply for membership by visiting

our web site at: <http://www.irhsleoclub.org> or by calling Jim or Carolyn Miles at 302 537-0942.

Meetings and club activities are directed through Club officers consisting of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Officers for the 2011-2012 year are as follows: President **Gopika Lakshmanan**, Vice President **Rosie Rinker**, Treasurer **Brooke Prendergast** and Secretary **Lori Ann West**.

Club Activities

Last year a total of 62 Leos took part in one or more of eleven different activities throughout the school year and spent just under 400 hours serving their community. These activities included helping direct the parking of cars at the Little League Senior Girls World Series in Roxana, participating in Delaware's annual beach cleanup in Fenwick Island, assisting at several Fenwick Island Lions Club fundraising functions, serving at the Lions Visually Impaired Christmas Party, including making favors for the guests, making Spring cards for the elderly, planting dune grass in Fenwick Island and assisting at Delaware's Special Olympics.



Leos collect used glasses and organize the groups of costumed children at the annual Lions Club Selbyville Parade, an event that is dedicated to children and attracts thousands of spectators.

Leadership Training Opportunities

Each fall members of the Club are eligible for and are encouraged to attend a leadership training retreat at a Lions Club Camp, Camp Merrick, in LaPlata, Maryland. This provides an opportunity for the Leos to interact with young folks from around our Lions Multiple District—consisting of Delaware, Maryland and Washington, DC. They also are afforded a weekend of leadership training, team building experiences, good fellowship and fun. There is no charge to individual Leo Club members for attending this retreat as the Fenwick Island Lions Club pays the entire cost.

Membership

Membership in the Leo Club is open to any student attending the Indian River High School. Members are encouraged to attend meetings and to participate in as many of the community activities as time and interest will permit. Membership dues are \$20.00 annually. Included in this cost is our new, custom designed, Leo Club tee-shirt.

The Leo Experience

Former Indian River High School student Kim Tran, who was the President of the Leo Club for two years, probably best describes the Leo experience:

“...I first became a member of the LEO Club in my freshman year... At first, I thought this was just something I could do to pad my college resumé but I didn’t fully understand the extent of our accomplishments until I saw the direct effect our work had on the people we were benefiting. Seeing the smiles we brought to people’s faces gave me a sense of satisfaction that was just so real and went above and beyond anything I’ve ever felt before...

... Basically, it’s one big cycle of giving, and there’s more to gain than just that feeling inside of being whole and helping someone else. Getting back what you put into the club is a big part of what we do, especially when it comes to character-building.



Leos and Lions and a dog named Beau gather at the Fenwick Island beach to participate in the Delaware’s Annual Coastal Cleanup.

direction that I never thought I’d find. People always feel like they can do more, but don’t know how. The LEO Club can tell you how, and I know it can do for you what it had done for me.”



Leos travel to Newark, DE to participate with other Leos and Lions in Delaware’s annual Special Olympics wellness screening process offered to all athletes. Pictured are Leos administering an eye test.

I feel that the LEO Club has made me a better person in how I’m able to put other people before myself in order to accomplish something that’s bigger than all of us. Experiences that I gained from the LEO Club taught me that there are things in this world that are more important than being selfish and thinking only of myself. We all live together in this world, and we all need to help each other if we want to help ourselves.

The Leo Club brings people together and does more than just community service. It gives a sense of belonging because we all have the same purpose, and it gives a sense of direction that’s rare in high school. It gives people a reason to do something good and a reason to want something more for themselves. I know this from personal experience since the LEO Club has given me