



LOCAL ACTION GUIDE

Membership Involvement

JCI is not just another volunteer organization. JCI membership requires belief in the JCI Mission, participation and action. JCI members share common values and a common goal, which allows them to give their time and energy to solving society's challenges as a unified group.

What makes JCI unique is the JCI Mission, the JCI experience and the JCI worldview. JCI helps young people find their own power to improve the world, positively impact the lives of others, become part of a global network and find personal purpose. Young active citizens in more than 100 countries, since the foundation in 1915, have been embracing their power to create positive change through JCI.

WHY THEY JOINED JCI

JCI Mission: To provide development opportunities that empower young people to create positive change.

Because everything we do in JCI is rooted in the JCI Mission, every member must embrace it. We must clearly convey this message to every young person who joins, because the Mission is the basis for a new member's involvement with JCI.

Existing members may be so focused on getting a new member that they may be tempted to emphasize secondary aspects of JCI. However, if a new member is not ready to live the Mission, they will not reach their full potential or stay a member for long. New members must get involved for the right reasons and have a sincere desire to contribute to the Mission.

For new members, the JCI Mission is the true lens through which they will find their place in JCI. Taking action begins with the JCI Mission.

Assign a Mentor

Existing members must take responsibility for new members understanding the Mission and all aspects of the organization. Once a new member has been inducted, an existing member should be assigned to become their mentor, either formally or informally. This personal connection gives the new member a comfortable way to clarify doubts and integrate into the group. The person who invited them to join may be the natural choice, or there may be a membership committee providing mentors.

NEW MEMBER MEETING

Shortly after a new member is inducted, the Local Chapter should organize a meeting to educate the new members. The meeting can be held one-on-one by the mentor or in a group by the membership committee, whatever is more comfortable. Create a relaxed environment making new members feel comfortable to share ideas and explore their future with JCI.

There is a free presentation available in the training downloads section at www.jci.cc that is designed for new members to learn about how to get involved in JCI. If possible, you may invite an official JCI Trainer to conduct this presentation for new members. Otherwise, ensure the following ideas are covered and discussed:

- JCI Mission, Vision and Values
- The concept of Active Citizenship
- The Active Citizen Framework
- Procedures, meetings and protocol
- Registration at www.usjaycees.org
- How to find their role in the organization
- Open forum to discuss new members' goals

ENGAGING NEW MEMBERS

Understand New Member Aspirations

The Local Chapter must understand the goals and needs of the new member. Use the new member meeting as an opportunity to find out how new members are most interested in contributing and where they see themselves in the organization. New members want to belong, to achieve, to be accepted, to grow and learn, to lead and follow, to be active and to be recognized. Mentors and/or the membership committee must take these aspirations into consideration when assisting a new member to find their place in JCI.



Show Opportunities for Involvement

When a new member joins and attends the new member meeting, they will hear about a variety of roles they might take. But these roles remain only conceptual until they see existing members in action. The new members must have a chance to observe and understand what each role, project and committee entails. With this understanding, they can begin to see themselves taking action in one of these roles.

Allow New Members to Choose their Path

Once exposed to the possibilities offered by their Local Chapter, it is time for the new member to decide how they want to begin contributing. Avoid pressuring the new member into a specific role or assigning them to tasks where they cannot express themselves or give input. New members mean new ideas and new life for the organization. Existing members must keep an open mind and encourage their input and participation.

Turn Aspirations into Action

After the new member has begun to feel a part of the organization, the mentor should continue to maintain a relationship with the person and follow up with them. Emphasize that they must take action and contribute to the Local Chapter to create a rewarding experience for themselves. Ensure they have joined a committee or project team that is aligned with their JCI goals. Check that all their questions are answered and that they understand the workings of the organization. If they are encountering any problems, the mentor can advocate for the new member to ensure their ideas are heard.

Empower Positive Change

Let your new members know very early that the possibilities for improving their community and themselves are endless. It is up to their ambition and initiative to seize their own power to create positive change, impact the lives of others, enjoy JCI's global network and see the impact of real change in the world.