

# SSIO – USA

## Region 3 (Southeast)



## Guidelines for Neighboring Centers

### **Introduction:**

As Sathya Sai Baba's organization continues to grow, new centers/groups are being established in closer proximity to existing centers/groups. The following guidelines will help guide their interactions and collaborations.

### **Reason for a new center/group:**

The reason for establishing a new center/group is for increasing opportunities for members and the community at large to benefit from learning and practicing Sathya Sai's teachings. Some reasons that would warrant opening a new location are to offer a more convenient location for members geographically, to offer more convenient timings, as well as to offer alternative meeting formats that may be more relatable and meaningful for spiritual seekers.

### **Spirit of Unity**

As with any endeavor done within Sai's organization, unity, cooperation and sacrifice should be the guiding principles. Placing the needs of the other individual and center above our own needs should always be at the forefront of all decision making. Sharing, rotating, allowing meaningful input from all while working within the spirit of Sai's teachings and the Organizational guidelines should be transparently evident.

### **Communication and Protocol:**

Each center, having their own officers and membership list, communicates with their own members independently. A person can only be a member of one center, but can ask to be placed on multiple center mailing lists to stay informed. Not only is a person free to attend any of the neighboring center programs, they should be encouraged to do so in a spirit of harmony and support.

### **Special Programs and Guest speakers:**

Officers from neighboring centers should collaborate on an annual calendar of events so that festival celebrations and special programs can be fairly rotated, shared, and timed for the benefit of the community at large. No one center should dominate the decision making. Input from officers and members of all involved centers should be formally presented. Ideally large and major events should be combined. The regional president and respective regional officer should be kept abreast of all planned collaborative events. For all other events, including center meetings, consideration should be given in planning to make sure that the other centers are not adversely affected by the timing, speaker selection and theme of programs. All should be vigilant to prevent comparison, competition, one-upmanship and any other form of disunity and ego to manifest.

### **Gift and Blessing**

All should express gratitude for having multiple neighboring centers collaborating, harmonizing and supporting each other as this a tremendous gift and blessing for the community.