

SGI Canada 2010 Culture Festival

Supplementary Information for Participants

General Questions:

1.	How much is the package fee and what does it include?			
	<p>Youth Division: \$250.00 per person. Includes accommodation (two nights, double occupancy), meals, transportation, costume and festival souvenirs. All costs are included except transportation to Toronto.</p> <p>Future Division and Parent(s) Package Prices: This package price is structured differently in order to accommodate the various combinations of children and parents staying in the same room. It is separated into two parts. There is a \$200 cost for each room, regardless of the number of occupants (to a maximum of four). The other part of the package price is for each individual parent and child, which includes meals, transportation, costume (Participants only) and festival souvenirs. The total price will depend on each family's arrangement.</p> <p>1. Accommodation: \$200.00 per room (two nights). Maximum four guests to a room, including at least one adult per room. 2. Parent: \$125.00 each. Includes meals, transportation and festival souvenir package. 3. Child (ages 5-13): \$150.00 each. Includes meals, transportation, costume and festival</p> <p>Following are examples of family arrangements:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"> Example 1: Total price for a family of two adults and two children: \$200 for hotel room \$250 for two adults \$300 for two children \$750 in total </td> <td style="width: 50%;"> Example 2: Total price for a family of one adult and two children: \$200 for hotel room \$125 for one adult \$300 for two children \$625 in total </td> </tr> </table>		Example 1: Total price for a family of two adults and two children: \$200 for hotel room \$250 for two adults \$300 for two children \$750 in total	Example 2: Total price for a family of one adult and two children: \$200 for hotel room \$125 for one adult \$300 for two children \$625 in total
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2.	How are the registration forms and payment collected?			
	<p>Please submit payment and registration forms through your designated regional or area leaders (Each local area or region should appoint a leader to be responsible). Please staple cheques to the forms. Each youth participant (ages 14 and up) must submit one cheque per participant. For future division (ages 5-13), one family can submit one cheque or money order to include payment for children and accompanying adults. For areas where you do not have an SGI Canada centre, you can mail the registration form and cheque/money order to your regional or area leader.</p>			
3.	I am having challenges providing a full payment at once. Can I pay half first and then another half later?			
	Payments must be made in full (partial payments or post-dated cheques will not be accepted).			
4.	I don't have a bank account. Can I pay by cash?			
	We can only accept cheques or money orders. Money orders can be made at banks or post offices.			



5.	To whom do I make out the cheque or money order?
	Write cheque or money order payable to: SGI Canada
6.	Can a district financially support a youth/family to attend the festival
	We appreciate your sincerity and good intention to encourage a youth / family who is financially struggling to participate in the Youth Fest 2010. Please encourage the members to chant daimoku and find a solution through their own faith and efforts. We cannot allow members to give or lend money to each other. This is a basic guideline of the SGI. Please also note that next year, there will be no youth or family Caledon conferences. This is to ensure all the members can fully participate and support the youth festival.
7.	When is the latest I can register for the event?
	The registration form needs to be submitted no later than December 31, 2009.
8.	When is the latest I can submit my payment?
	We request that you submit both the registration form and payment together. In the event you are not able to submit your payment at the time of registration, both payment and travel information must be received no later than March 1, 2010.
9.	If I find out I can't participate in the festival after I have already submitted my festival payment, will I receive a refund?
	If you cancel after March 1, 2010 , there will be no refund for cancellation. If you cancel from Nov 1, 2009-March 1, 2010 , you will be refunded 50%. If you cancel before Nov 1, 2009 , you will receive a full refund.
10.	Can participants come earlier than May 14, 2010 and then meet at the pickup location on the festival arrival date?
	No. All participants must arrive on May 14, 2010, no later than 7:00 p.m. EDT. Shuttle service will be available between 2:00 and 8:00 p.m. The last shuttle bus will leave at 8:00 p.m. EDT.
11.	Can participants come later, arriving on the date of the festival, May 15, 2010?
	No. All participants must arrive on May 14, 2010. Orientation sessions will be conducted on Friday, May 14. All participants will attend individual performance rehearsals and a dress rehearsal early in the morning on Saturday, May 15. It is necessary to have all participants present and accounted for throughout the entire period of the events.
12.	What time should we book our departure flight/train/bus on May 16, 2010?
	All departures should be booked for after 3:00 p.m. EDT.
13.	Will there be an official letter from SGI Canada explaining the event, which a student can submit to their school to help get permission to take the day off on Friday, May 14—especially for those who might have exams on that day?
	Yes, we will provide a letter that will describe the event for teachers and professors. We hope this letter will make it easier for students to get permission to take the time off school. This letter might also help to enable students' participation to be counted as community service, although that would be determined by each individual's respective school.



14.	Since youth members who are 14 or older do not need to be accompanied by a parent, will there be a form for parent(s) of youth who are between the age of 13-18 years old to sign for liability purpose?
	No, there will be no form for parents to sign. The registration form is sufficient.
15.	Can children or youth members who are not participating in the culture festival attend the youth general meeting on Sunday, May 16th?
	The youth general meeting will be attended by the participants only. We have to incorporate this meeting into the overall arrangements, including transportation and meals. It will therefore not be possible to include additional members or guests.
16.	Can I stay longer in Toronto after the festival is over (after May 16, 2010)?
	Yes, but you will have to check out together with all participants on May 16. You will be responsible for your own accommodation and transportation thereafter.
17.	How can our friends/family members purchase tickets to see the show?
	After all participants and related families are registered, seats will be allotted to each local organization.

On the Culture Festival:

1	We live very far from the local SGI Canada centre and therefore it would not be feasible to attend all the rehearsals. Can a few members in my local district/chapter put a performance together for the Culture Show?
	The outline of the culture show has been completed. Each region is responsible for its section of the performance, which may comprise music, dance, song and other performances. Your regional production representative will be in touch with you on how you can participate. With advanced technology, we are looking for different methods, such as DVDs, to rehearse in smaller groups and to coordinate with the area or region.
2	When do we start rehearsal in each area?
	Rehearsal will commence in January 2010. Future division may start their rehearsals earlier.
3	What will we expect from each practice session?
	Aside from rehearsing the performance in your group, before each practice, the participants will chant together and a short study session will also take place. All participants will be studying the novel, <i>The Human Revolution</i> together.
4	Can non-member youth or children participate in the festival?
	Yes they can, as long as they understand that there is a faith component in preparing for the festival and they want to be part of it. For example, before rehearsals, participants will chant together and study Buddhism together, as the goal of the festival is to solidify the faith of the youth & future divisions, deepen our understanding of Buddhism, and strengthen our commitment to kosen-rufu.

Accommodation and Venues:

1	Where is the culture festival taking place?
	The culture festival will be taking place at Roy Thomson Hall on Saturday, May 15, 2010. The address of Roy Thomson Hall is 60 Simcoe Street, Toronto, ON M5J 2H5
2	Is it permissible for babies or children under 5 to come and see the show at Roy Thomson Hall?
	Based on Roy Thomson Hall's concert etiquette, babies or children under 5 will not be admitted.
3	Where will the youth and future division members and their parents stay in Toronto from May 14-15?
	Youth division members will stay at either Seneca or Centennial College residence. Future division members and their parents will be staying at Novotel North York Hotel.
4	Since the maximum capacity is four people in one room at Novotel Hotel (with at least one adult in each room), can 2 families share a room?
	It is permissible for two families to share one room, as long as the total occupancy of the room does not exceed four people and a maximum of two adults. This number cannot be exceeded because of fire safety regulations. Arrangements for sharing rooms must be made by families who mutually wish to room together. SGI Canada will not be involved in suggesting or making arrangements for sharing rooms, and families should not feel obligated to share a room, even if their room is not fully occupied.
5	Parking: If I am driving to Toronto, is parking available at the accommodations?
	There is parking available and there is a fee, which you will be responsible for covering. Rates are \$17 per night. Please note, however, that we will provide transportation from the SGI Canada Culture Centre in Toronto, as well as the airport, train station and bus station.
6	Why do we need to stay together the whole weekend even if I live in Toronto?
	All of the activities during this weekend are part of Youth Fest 2010—from arrival on Friday afternoon/early evening to the early morning rehearsal at Roy Thomson Hall on Saturday morning, to the Culture Show on Saturday afternoon, to the General Meeting on Sunday morning. To ensure a safe, smooth and successful weekend, it is necessary for us to be together. If anyone were to arrive late or go missing, it would disrupt the entire event. Also, we need to be able to communicate any changes or new information instantly to all participants. Most importantly, this is an event that all the participants should experience together from start to finish, creating the same spirit among all members. Hundreds of members will be travelling from far away, for which they will have to struggle to pay air fare. As the host of this very important event, let's warmly welcome our fellow members and show our appreciation for their sincere efforts by being together from start to finish.

General Information for Families:

The 2010 Youth Festival is an event that will involve at least 1,000 participants. All future division members (ages 5-13) must be accompanied by at least one parent or guardian throughout the weekend's activities. This will include being backstage during the culture festival in order to supervise their children. Because this event involves members from across Canada, many of whom will not know each other, we need to ask all parents to be with their children at all times in order to ensure every child's safety and well-being.

As a result, the event staff members will not have the capacity to take care of SGI Canada members who will not be performing in the 2010 Youth Festival event. Non-participants (audience members) are not eligible for the participants' package and must look after their own accommodation and transportation.

It is with this in mind that we put together the following scenarios, and we ask for your support and understanding. If you have further questions, please discuss them with your local leaders.

Following are some questions families may have:

1	The memo stated total occupancy of each room cannot exceed four people. We have three children who are between 5 and 13 and both parents would like to attend. What would be the rooming arrangement in this case?
	For families with three children and two parents, we need to make special arrangements. Please contact your local future division leader.
2	We have two children. One of them is not 5 years old yet; therefore, only one child will be performing. Can all of us register for this event?
	For children under 5 years old, parents cannot register them to be part of the event. Based on Roy Thomson Hall's concert etiquette, babies or children under 5 will not be admitted.
3	We have 2 children. Both of them are between 5 and 13 years old. One child will be performing but the other one does not want to perform. Can we bring both children?
	Children who are not performing cannot be registered as participants and will have to come with the other parent or guardian separately. All future division members must be accompanied by at least one parent throughout the weekend's activities. The other parent and child can purchase tickets to see the show in the audience. However, they must arrange their own accommodation and transportation for the event. Since participants will have a very tight schedule involving preparations and rehearsals, it is not possible to take care of non-participants at the same time.
4	We have 2 children. One is between 5-13 years old. The other child is over 14. Both of them will be performing. Can we all stay in the same room?
	Both parents and the child who is under 13 can stay in the same room. The child who is over 14 will be staying with the youth division members in another facility, either Seneca or Centennial College residence. The schedules, meals, and transportation arrangements for the youth division will be different from those of the future division.

5	We understand all future division members must be accompanied by one parent throughout the weekend's activities. If both parents are attending, do both of us have to stay with our child throughout the whole weekend?
	We require one parent to stay with the child throughout the whole weekend, including being backstage during the culture show. We will have a lot of other responsibilities, so the other parent may be requested to help out as a support staff during the weekend.
6	We understand each child must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. What is the definition of a guardian?
	The guardian should be someone who is a parent figure who lives with the child and should not be someone who is appointed for this weekend event. Family cannot ask other members to look after their children due to liability issues.
7	Where will the FD leaders be staying? How many people can stay in a room?
	At Novotel Hotel. The maximum capacity is 2 adults per room.
8	Future Division leaders who are bringing their children between 5 -13 years old and they will be performing; can they stay with their families?
	Yes, FD leaders will stay with their own families, as long as the total occupancy of the room does not exceed four people, with a maximum of two adults.