



Om Sri Sai Ram



SSSGC - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Why was the Sri Sathya Sai Global Council (SSSGC) formed?

Answer: To further enhance the Sai Mission by formally uniting the three primary branches of his organization under one umbrella: the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust (SSSCT), the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organization (India), and the Sri Sathya Sai International Organization (SSSIO). Prior to the 2011 Mahasamadhi, Sri Sathya Sai Baba's physical presence guided and connected all who reported to him from Prashanti Nilayam. In the absence of Bhagavan's physical presence, the necessity to have a coordinating body which can ensure coordination and consistency of His message across all branches was internationally requested by numerous devotees. Thus, the SSSGC was formed, and is comprised of leaders from around the world organized within a transparent, fair, and balanced structure to achieve these objectives and ensure the purity and accuracy of Bhagavan's message is preserved globally for posterity. Please refer to the Terms of Reference document for further details.

2. Why are the SSSIO and SSSGC not working together to create this unity given the need to have a coordinated, consistent, and accurate version of Bhagavan's message?

Answer: Numerous attempts have been made to work with the SSSIO, but to this date have not yielded in a breakthrough. The SSSIO wishes to work unilaterally and independently without any oversight from the source of Bhagavan's teachings, Prashanthi Nilayam. The SSSGC only intends to provide oversight at the most senior levels of all the pillars of the organization with each pillar running largely autonomously as per the guidelines of the Sathya Sai organization.

3. Will the Central Trust control selection of the SSSIO office bearers at all levels?

Answer: The Central Trust will not determine office bearers, at the center, regional, or national, or zonal levels. The selection of the SSSIO chairman in the future will not be independently done by the Central Trust. Rather, executive committees consisting of all pillars of Swami's Organizations (SSSCT, SSSIO, SSSSO India) will be formed who will recommend the appointment of the chairman SSSIO and SSSSO India to the SSSGC. The SSSGC Executive Committees to select these chairmen consists of over 20+ organizational leaders across the pillars of each of these organizations. Central Trust representation on these committees is only three members.



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4. Is the SSSGC or Central Trust trying to take control of the financial donations of devotees globally?

Answer: Not at all. The Central Trust and Prashanthi Nilayam receive numerous unsolicited donations from devotees around the world with the intent of furthering Bhagavan's message of 'Help Ever, Hurt Never' and 'Love All, Serve All'. The vast institutions built by Swami focusing on education and healthcare for the needy are all run comfortably based on his divine guidance. No official organizational body will ever seek to obtain, improperly use, or take credit for the sacred donations devotees make to help others.

5. How can individuals and existing centers get more information about the SSSGC?

Answer: The following website has been set up for access to announcements and updates:
<https://www.sssgc-zone1.org>

6. How can individuals and centers register with the SSSGC?

Answer: Anyone can register on the following website registration page:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdRiCxZitl77X00FyFki9L0065q6Jb4qNmFjlqIrJiR_Zx9gg/viewform.

This will allow:

- I. individuals to register and be connected to a nearby SSSGC center/group,
 - II. or individuals to sign up for a virtual SSSGC center/group, or
 - III. a group of 9 or more individuals to come together to form a new SSSGC center/group,
 - IV. or an existing center/group where most officers and members wish to sign up with SSSGC.
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7. Will the leadership of SSSGC consist of only Indians?

Answer: The foremost principle for the SSSGC is to follow the guidance and directives of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. He has clearly indicated that the organization is for all individuals who wish to grow spiritually. The universal human values of Truth, Right Action, Peace, Love and Non-Violence along with the message of "Love All, Serve All" should be the constant, unchanging base for all centers. The language, culture, traditions, religious expressions, and rituals should adapt for the benefit of the local community.



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8. Will the SSSGC turn the Sai organization into one geared towards a specific religion?

Answer: The beauty and power of Bhagavan's message is that it is universal, regardless of caste, creed, or religion. In fact, Bhagavan has stressed that "There is only one religion, the religion of Love". The intent of the SSSGC is to preserve the hallmark of Swami's teachings accurately and without dilution. All SSSGC affiliated centers will be focused on spreading the universal nature of his teachings while emphasizing the validity of each religion's path and appreciating our unity in diversity.

9. How are we planning to make the SSSGC universal?

Answer: By educating our members regarding the teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. By following the clear instructions Baba has given over the years in His writings, discourses, and interviews. By fostering empathy for all and acknowledging that the need of the hour for entire humanity is exposure to Baba's teachings.

10. Can a devotee be an officer of both SSSGC and another Sai organization?

Answer: No. Of course, there are many wonderful spiritual organizations around the world doing wonderful work, but if functioning as an officer in the SSSGC, one should not have an official position or responsibility to another spiritual organization to avoid any potential conflict or confusion.

11. Is the SSSGC telling devotees that they will not be allowed to visit the physical home of Bhagavan in Prashanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi, India?

Answer: Bhagavan welcomed people of all faiths, classes, creeds, political backgrounds and cultures with his message of love towards your fellow man and woman. All are welcome to Prashanthi Nilayam at any time to pay their respects to our beloved Swami. All efforts to provide accommodations and support will continue in earnest to ensure any visitor experiences a wonderful stay in Puttaparthi. Given the limited capacity and high level of interest in performing, speaking, or sitting in special locations – the administrators of the Ashram will from time to time have to prioritize those centers / regions based on their affiliation with the SSSGC and in turn, Prashanthi Nilayam.



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12. Can you explain how the newly formed SSSGC now represents well over 95% of all Sai organizational devotees around the world?

Answer: The membership of the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organization of India alone contains, by number, over 90% of all Sai Organizational devotees. When combining with those individuals affiliated with the institutions managed by the central trust, along with the large number of SSSGC aligned centers worldwide, well over 95% of Sai organizational devotees on earth are under the umbrella of the SSSGC.

13. If I or my center join the SSSGC, will my child lose the benefit of Sathya Sai's spiritual educational programs?

Answer: No one can restrict the dissemination of the teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The origination of all of Bhagavan's children's educational programs across the world originated and sprung from His divine teachings from Prashanthi Nilayam, in Puttaparthi, India. All materials focusing on the spiritual development of children to better mankind, including those used to comprise the Sai Spiritual Education (SSE), Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV), and the Bal Vikas (child's spiritual blossoming) programs will be made available so any center, teacher and member can learn and participate in the children's educational programs sponsored by the SSSGC, which will be called Sri Sathya Sai Educare (SSSE).

14. What will be the age range for Young Adults in the SSSGC?

Answer: The young adult age range in the SSSGC will be from 18-35. This is a request we have received from numerous devotees over the years. Prior to 2011 when Swami was present in the physical body, 35 was the upper age limit for the YA's. Also, the Indian organization has maintained the upper limit of 35 as well.

15. Can devotees from other spiritual organizations work in collaboration with neighboring SSSGC centers?

Answer: SSSGC centers and groups welcome all to their devotional, educational and service programs. They do not have to be devotees of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, nor do they have to be members to participate. However, if one is to become an official member or officer in the SSSGC, they should not be a member of any other Sai organizational group.



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16. Can you provide some guidance as to how we can do this in a seamless manner?

Answer: Continue to put in to practice Sri Sathya Sai's teaching in every aspect of our lives. Continue all the wonderful service work and spiritual practices you have always done at the center. Nothing changes except now we are united as an even larger Sai Family.

17. What is the recommended method for naming centers in our Zone?

Answer: The naming system should be: The Sri Sathya Sai Global Council Center of city or locale, (state optional), country

- ◆ Example: "The SSSGC Center of Clearwater, Florida, USA
- ◆ Example: "The SSSGC Center of Scarborough, Toronto, Canada
- ◆ Informally we can still use simple nicknames. Example: The Rio Clara Sai Center