

**Minnesota
Junior Chamber
Springboard and Degrees**

Springboard and Degrees

Introduction

Springboard is a formal member-activation program for new members and **Degrees of Jaycees** is available for long-term members. The **Leadership Academy** is a project for long-term members to guide new members.

Springboard and Degrees of Jaycees can be combined for use with the Leadership Academy. Each of these is a path for members to follow to learn about the Junior Chamber and experience personal growth in a logical manner. Forms for the Springboard and Degrees programs have been included in the forms section.

Fast-Start Program

A key to retaining members is to immediately activate them into the chapter. This 90-day program is a tool for chapters to use as a guideline for activating new members. This program should be used to supplement, rather than replace, the Springboard Program.

Springboard Program

This program, designed for first-year members, is a tool for the chapter to activate new members, ensure that they have every opportunity to gain the benefits for membership, and are able to make a fully informed decision when it comes time to renew their membership.

Certification: Upon completion of the Springboard requirements, including renewing dues, the new member should complete the Springboard Certification Form, ask the Chapter President to sign it, and mail it to the state office. This will certify the new member in the Springboard program. Once new members have completed the Springboard requirements, they will have earned their first three Degrees.

Degrees of Jaycees

This program continues where Springboard leaves off. A Degree of Jaycees is a career path for members, providing a logical sequence of events to be followed. By working through the various requirements spread across ten degree levels, members will learn and grow in the Junior Chamber experience.

For the member, Degrees is a guide for personal growth. In addition, each member completing the Degrees of Jaycees program achieves the benefits of leadership training while directly affecting the experience of other members.

For the chapter, Degrees of Jaycees is a personnel management program which can be used toward the achievement of chapter goals through member's participation. The chapter also gains increased visibility and influence within the community.

The Degrees program is divided into three phases as described below:

Phase 1: Involvement

The first three degrees provide newer Jaycees with opportunities to experience orientation, training, community awareness, and sharing Jaycees (see Springboard).

Phase 2: Experience

Degrees four, five and six are designed to let Jaycees use their experiences from the first phase to develop skills in activation, action, and recruiting.

Phase 3: Leadership

The last four degrees use the participants' training and leadership skills gained in the first two phases.

Certification: When a degree has been achieved, members should complete a Degrees of Jaycees Certification Form, listing the degree and the activities completed. Chapter Presidents must sign the forms and send them to their state office. Note: Participants must complete one degree at a time. There are no retroactive items. Only degrees completed during the current Junior Chamber year are accepted.

Leadership Academy

The Leadership Academy is a mentoring program developed after discovering that, on average, less than half of all new members renew their membership commitment after the first year. By teaming an experienced member with a new member, new members can be guided through the first year, helping them become actively involved in the chapter and increasing the member's motivation to renew.

New-member activation may be the most important work of the chapter administration team. Without new members and subsequent renewals, there can be no experienced members and no chapter to render needed service to the people in the community.

The Springboard program is a good guideline for the Academy member to use with the new member, as it provides basic information for the new member. A chapter is not required to run the Springboard program in order to run the Leadership Academy program or vice versa. However, it is strongly encouraged to run the programs together. They were developed to be used together and work best that way.

Any Jaycee who has renewed his or her membership at least once and is currently enrolled in the Degrees of Jaycees program may become an Academy member. There are no structured training programs or forms to be filled out for the Academy program. Any experienced member who is interested in the growth and well being of the chapter is eligible to be an Academy member.

This activation program should be used in a way that will best benefit the chapter and its members. Since the requirements are optional, the program can be adapted to fit the specific

needs and goals of individual's chapters. However, chapter leaders should ensure that the program remains challenging and rewarding.

How to become a 10th Degree Jaycee

1. Complete your paperwork! This is your documentation to national if you do not turn it in; even if you have completed the requirements you will not get credit without the documentation.
2. Make copies of all your paperwork.
3. Be willing to resubmit your paperwork things get lost in the mail or at the State and National Chapter Service Centers.
4. Make sure your paperwork is signed by the appropriate people for example if you are back dating your paperwork to last year then the chapter president for that year needs to sign the paperwork.
5. Keep a calendar of projects, chapter meetings, state events, road runs, and regional, district events you attend. You will be surprised how fast you can complete a degree.
6. Recruit new members degrees 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 require that you sign a new member.
7. Ask to be assigned to mentor a newer Jaycee and help them to springboard or advance a degree.
8. Do not mail your paperwork to National it has to be verified by the state Management development VP or program manager. Mail your paper work to the state office and follow up with a phone call to make sure it is received. The state does not make copies so if you need to resubmit your paperwork you can.
9. Each degree earned has a completion date. You cannot backtrack your next degree to include a requirement you completed prior to that date. So plan your degrees accordingly.
10. Try to set a day aside quarterly to fill out your paperwork so that you can set your goals for each quarter and better evaluate your plan of advancement. Make it a chapter activity!
11. Be Patient! Your degrees will show up on your chapter roster 1-10 for degrees completed and a letter "S" for completion of Springboard this means the member can start on their 4th degree members enrolled in Springboard will not show up until they have completed the Springboard Certification form.

Other Common Questions Asked

How many degrees can I advance in a year?

You may advance as many degrees as you can as long as you get them verified.

What is the Leadership Academy?

MN does not participate in the leadership academy you may leave that spot on the Springboard Certification Form blank or assign a board member to the person Spring boarding and put their name in that spot.

What is the Survey Form?

MN does not forward personnel information so we do not send the survey forms to national.

Can a member complete their degrees after they turn 41?

A member cannot advance degrees once they become alumni status. A member can advance degrees when they are 41 as long as they have an active membership. The only way a member can advance degrees when they are 41 and alumni status is if they took a board position for the current year and were 40 on January 1st.

Please remember to attach the Chapter Verification Form with all your chapter members' degrees paperwork. The member number is the number assigned each member on the chapter roster. Brand new Jaycees may not have a number available yet leave it blank.