

Om Sai Ram



**SRI SATHYA SAI CENTER OF SOUTH BETHESDA, MARYLAND
REGION 2 – MID-ATLANTIC, ZONE 1 – UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**MEMBERSHIP CODE OF CONDUCT AND PROTOCOLS
Version 2.0 - Published January 15, 2011**

Welcome to the Sri Sathya Sai Baba Center of South Bethesda (SSSBC). All Members must observe the SSSBC Code of Conduct and Protocols in order to enjoy the privileges of Membership at the Center.

Individual Members are requested to follow the Nine Point Code of Conduct laid out by Sri Sathya Sai Baba and the Sai Center Protocols laid out by the Center's Committee of Office Bearers, as detailed below.

This Code of Conduct and Protocols are essential to maintain an atmosphere of sanctity in the activities of the Center so that all Members are spiritually elevated. The Center is a place of worship, like a church, temple, synagogue, or mosque and must be treated with the same reverence.

Nine Point Code of Conduct

1. Daily meditation and prayer.
2. Devotional singing/prayer with Members of one's family once per week.
3. Participation in educational programs conducted by the Organization for the children.
4. Attendance at least once per month at group devotional programs conducted by the Organization.
5. Participation in community service and other programs of the Organization.
6. Regular study of Sai literature.
7. Putting into practice the principle of "Ceiling on Desires" and utilizing any savings thereby generated for the service of mankind.
8. Speaking softly and lovingly with everyone with whom one comes into contact.
9. Avoiding talking ill of others, especially in their absence.

Sai Center Protocols

1. Attire: Please wear clean and modest attire. Revealing clothes and shorts are not permitted.
2. Shoes: Please remove shoes and leave them at the entrance of the Center, as a sign of respect.
3. Greetings: Devotees usually greet one another or say good-byes with "Sai Ram", as an acknowledgement of the Divinity in each other.
4. Silence: Please maintain silence while in the Center, in order to not disturb other devotees in their prayers and meditation. Excessive talk is harmful and destroys spiritual vibrations, especially at the conclusion of the Center's activities.
5. Seating: Men and women sit separately for all activities, to minimize the interaction and distraction arising from Members of the opposite sex. Seating is often on the floor; chairs are provided for those who prefer them.
6. Time: Please arrive sufficiently in advance of the commencement of the program so that you may be seated quietly and comfortably without disturbing others.
7. Assembly and Dispersal: Members are urged to avoid unnecessary conversations in the Hall, Hallways, and other Center premises, assemble and disperse quietly.