

Topping-Out Ceremony for Dharma Centers

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

On this auspicious day, members of [*Dharma center name*], people with karmic connections to this area, and related parties, all of pure heart, have gathered to solemnly conduct this topping-out ceremony for the Dharma center of [*Dharma center name*].

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation (*Chapters 2 and 16 from the Kyoten*)
- Dharanis (*Chapters 26 and 28 from the Kyoten's appendix, five times each*)
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma,
may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
Practice;
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
mahasattvas;
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, having sincerely recited the sutra together with the participants of pure heart, we respectfully express our gratitude to the Buddha for arranging the completion of the main structure of [*Dharma center's name*].

We reverently pray that all karmic connections to this place may be auspicious and that all hindrances may be dispelled. We also earnestly ask for guidance to successfully complete a magnificent and robust Dharma center.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Ritual of Purifying the Four Corners (*Sprinkle salt, rice, and sake.*)
- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Making a Congratulatory Toast

Note

As for the Ritual of Purifying the Four Corners above, sprinkle salt, rice, and *sake* at the four corners of the building foundation of the Dharma center. Further, you can replace the rice and *sake* with products available in your area that are traditionally used for religious rituals and ceremonies.