

## Answers to FAQs regarding recitation competition

namaste,

Welcome to Samskritam Recitation Competition (Samskrita-kanthaphātha-spardhā) annually organized by Samskrita Bharati for last several years. One of the reasons for conducting a recitation competition is to introduce original Samskritam texts to children and their parents. We are happy that your children will be taking part in this event.

Bhartruhari, a Samskritam scholar of yore, composed “vaakyapadeeya” on Samskritam grammar – and Shataka Trishati, comprising 3 collections of 100 verses each. Of these 3 (shatakams), “neeti shatakam” is a popular text which explains moral conduct, and provides all of us especially our children an opportunity to learn and recite them. While a nominal translation of the stanzas is provided with the practice text for your quick reference, you are encouraged to research the detailed commentary on this treatise – published by India’s Raashtriya Samskrita Samsthaanam.

Below are answers to some of the frequently asked questions. If you have other questions, please feel free to send an email to <dc>[@SamskritaBharatiUSA.Org](mailto:@SamskritaBharatiUSA.Org).

### 1) How can I get the competition date, time and venue information?

We are planning to hold this competition in various cities across the US. In Virginia it is being held on **14<sup>th</sup> May, 2016** at **Durga Mandir, 8400 Durga Pl, Fairfax station, VA 22039**. The competition starts at 2 pm and ends at 6 pm

### 2) What is the text selected for the Recitation Competition?

For prior years, we had selected sūtras (aphorisms) from the samādhiH and sādhana pāda of Maharshi Patanjali’s Yogasutra, a popular yoga text which succinctly summarizes the science of Yoga in sūtra-form. For this year’s competition, our children will have an opportunity to memorize and chant from the Bharturhari subhāshitāni from nṬiṣatakam. We are confident that our children will be able to memorize these subhāshitāni given proper guidance and practice time. For proper pronunciation and meter, please refer to the website audio link.

### 3) What are the categories that children can compete in? How many subhāshitāni should they memorize for the competition?

There are five categories based on grade level. The number of subhāshitāni to be memorized depends on each category as follows:

**atiśiśugaṇaH (Preschool min. 3 yrs)** → *subhāshitāni 1, 2, 14 (=part 1), subhāshitāni 7, 12, 13 (=part 2)*

**śiśugaṇaH (KG & 1st grade)** → *part 1, subhāshitam 24, part 2, subhāshitāni 17, 18, 23 (=part 3)*

**bālagāṇaH (children 2nd - 4th grades)** → *part1, subhāshitam 24, part2, part3, subhāshitāni 6, 11, 19, 20, 22*

kiśōragaṇaH (5-7 grade) → part1, subhāshitam 24, part2, subhāshitāni 6, 11, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25

yuvagaṇaH (8th grade and above) → subhāshitāni 1 to 25 in straight sequence

**4) Would you permit my child to compete in a lower or a higher category? Can my child compete in two categories?**

Sorry. We want all children to participate only in their respective grade-level category. Only one entry per child is allowed in the entire competition.

**5) My child knows many ślokas. Can s/he recite these other ślokas?**

Glad to know (!). For this competition however, your child should know and recite the subhāshitāni from the nṭiṣatakam of vidvān Bharturhari that we have selected for the child's grade-level. Please see answer to Q3.

**6) Should a child memorize all the subhāshitāni?**

Children are expected to memorize and recite all the subhāshitāni in their category (please see answer to Q3 above). Our focus is on participation and recitation; competition is just a means to inspire children about learning original Samskritam texts. Therefore, we encourage all children who have registered to participate even if they have not memorized all the subhāshitāni in their category. For proper pronunciation and meter, please refer to audio link.

**7) What are the prizes?**

All children will get a participation certificate. Top contenders in each of the five categories will be given prizes.

**8) When will the certificates and the prizes be distributed?**

Participation certificates and prizes will be given on the same day at the conclusion of the competition.

**9) Is there any fee for participation?**

There will be a nominal registration fee of \$10.00(ten USD) per child. Payment can be made thru paypal during registration. Please see registration link for details.

**10) How will the participants be judged?**

Judging will be based on the following four criteria:

- a) Memory (ability to recite without break, hesitation or confusion)
- b) Pronunciation and clarity
  - i. Diction (crisp and correct pronunciation)
  - ii. Tone and flow (proper meter to be used)
- c) Presentation (posture, mannerism and sincerity of effort)
- d) Overall effect (right attitude and feeling of the participant and its effect on the listener).

**11) How will I know the time when my child will be required to recite on competition day?**

As in the past, many children (50 to 100 in any given center) are expected to participate in this year's competition. Therefore, it is difficult to state exactly when your child's turn will come on the day of the competition. We understand that you and your child(ren) may have other commitments but once registered, we hope that you would make attending recitation competition a priority on the day of competition.

**12) Once registered, can a registrant drop out?**

Lot of volunteer time and effort goes into planning and putting together such quality programs. We hope that registrants also value and appreciate the effort of the volunteers. We request that you inform us at the earliest if you are unable to attend due to any reason, by sending an email to <dc>@sanskritabharatiusa.org. It would help us plan the event better since no-shows hurt any competition. There is no refund on the cancellations.

If you have more questions, please feel free to send an email to dc@SanskritaBharatiUSA.Org. Have a wonderful time memorizing Bharutrhari subhāshitāni with your children (!)

Did you know? - Parents like you are also interested in –

### Sanskritam Classes

**For children** - We have developed a 3-year program for children age 8 to 12 and conduct children's classes in many centers. These classes are held once a week and run from early September through mid June. Please visit our website (<http://www.SanskritaBharatiUSA.Org>) or write to [Info@SanskritaBharatiUSA.Org](mailto:Info@SanskritaBharatiUSA.Org) for details.

**SAFL for teenagers** - We recently introduced a 3-year distance learning program for teenagers as a substitute for foreign language requirement that they need to fulfill for their college admission. (SAFL = Sanskrit As Foreign Language). In the current academic year, more than 50 children have enrolled in SAFL program and we expect the number to grow to 100 students in the coming academic year. For more information, please visit our website (<http://www.SanskritaBharatiUSA.Org>) or write to [Info@SanskritaBharatiUSA.Org](mailto:Info@SanskritaBharatiUSA.Org) for details.

**For adults** - We have developed a two year curriculum through which anyone with no knowledge of sanskritam can learn to speak, read and understand simple sanskritam texts. If interested, call us at 978-268-8406 or send an email to [Info@SanskritaBharatiUSA.Org](mailto:Info@SanskritaBharatiUSA.Org).

### Summer Residential Camps

For last several years, Sanskrita Bharati has been conducting summer camps in the US as a means to provide a 'gurukula' type of opportunity for learning Sanskritam. These summer camps are residential in nature and are conducted at camp sites with modern facilities. In 2013, we will be conducting seven summer camps (two youth camps and five family camps) in various locations. Please visit our website (<http://www.SanskritaBharatiUSA.Org>) or write to [Info@SanskritaBharatiUSA.Org](mailto:Info@SanskritaBharatiUSA.Org) for details.

### Camp Panini (Summer Day Camp for Children)

A new program for children age 8-13 in selected centers. Please write to [Info@SanskritaBharatiUSA.Org](mailto:Info@SanskritaBharatiUSA.Org) for details.