



**Sanskritam As a Foreign Language (SAFL)  
Medhā shibiram (SAMS303)  
July 16, 2017 – July 30, 2017 @ Bengaluru, India**

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

**1. Eligibility**

**1a) Who can attend?**

All current SAFL students who have completed SAMS302 can attend this camp.

**1b) My child has not completed SAMS302 yet. Can s/he still attend the camp?**

No. This camp is only for those students who have completed SAMS302. Please contact one of the volunteers listed at the end if you have any further questions.

**1c) What proportion of girls and boys will be attending the camp?**

The proportion of girls and boys attending the camp is based on the current enrollment in SAMS302. Regardless of the proportion, boys and girls will be accommodated in separate rooms in the buildings of Aksharam, Samskrita Bharati's International headquarters located in Girinagar, Bengaluru, India.

**2. Registration Details**

**2a) What is the last date for registration?**

25th June 2017 is the last date to register for the camp.

**2b) What are the fees for the camp?**

The fees for this camp is \$250/- if paid on or before May 20, 2017. After that date, the fees will be \$300/-. Fee includes lodging, food, transportation (related to field trips as part of the camp), teaching and materials for the duration of the camp. Students are responsible for covering the cost of transportation to and from Bengaluru at the beginning and conclusion of the camp. Fees should be paid online through the Samskrita Bharati website.

**2c) Is there a travel grant available and how do I apply?**

Sorry. There is no travel grant available for this camp.

**2d) Is there a refund if I cancel my registration after paying the fee?**

Cancellations must be made by emailing [medhaa@sanskritabharatiusa.org](mailto:medhaa@sanskritabharatiusa.org). Cancellations due to emergency events will be refunded in full. For non-emergency cancellations, the following guidelines will be enforced:

Cancellation on or before May 20, 2017 - \$50 reduction in refund.

Cancellation after May 20, 2017 - \$75 reduction in refund.



**2e) When will the camp begin?**

Camp will begin at 9:00am on Sunday, July 16, 2017. Reporting time is 5:00pm on Saturday, July 15, 2017. The camp will end on Sunday, July 30, 2017 at 2:00pm.

**2f) What should the participants do after arriving at the camp?**

All participants are expected to check in at the sign-in desk staffed by Samskrita Bharati volunteers. This desk will be located in the main office of Aksharam.

**2g) Can my kid arrive late?**

We highly discourage participants from coming late, as they will be missing classes (it will be difficult to catch up with the rest of the class) as well as other planned activities. If you have questions, please contact one of the volunteers (names and phone numbers are given at the end of this document).

**2h) Are parents allowed in the camp?**

Parents are discouraged from attending the camp. A few parents who would like to help out with the logistics of the camp will be needed. There will not be any classes targeted for parents, nor are parents expected to stay with their kids. Please contact one of the volunteers listed at the bottom of the document if you are a parent interested in volunteering for the camp.

**2i) Will Sanskrita Bharati handle visa documents?**

Sorry, we cannot process your child's paperwork. Your child's paperwork should be in order for re-entry into the United States.

### 3. Teaching

**3a) What will be taught in the camp and will there be different levels?**

There will be only one level at the camp as all the attendees have just completed SAMS302. Following a brief review of the topics covered in SAMS 301/302, students will be introduced to new topics in grammar and literature. Students will also take part in teacher-training sessions, and interact with local school students and families who speak Samskritam.

**3b) Who will be teaching?**

Classes will be taught by Samskrita Bharati instructors from India and the SAFL program.

**3c) Where will the classes be held?**

Classes will be located in Aksharam, Samskrita Bharati's International headquarters located in Girinagar, Bengaluru, India.

**3d) Will course material be provided?**

Yes, course material in the form of handouts will be provided. Exercise books will be available for purchase at the campsite. Participants are encouraged to bring Samskritam books (especially Samskrita Bharati publications) or study material for reference; however this is by no means required.



#### 4. Activities

##### 4a) What are the activities at the camp?

Each day will include approximately four hours of class time, with various other outdoor and indoor activities throughout the day. Below is a sample schedule for one day's activities. **Please note that this is a tentative schedule and may be changed.**

6:00-7:00 am	जागरणं स्नानं च	jāgaraṇam snānam ca	Waking up and Bath
7:00-7:45 am	प्रार्थना योगः च	prārthanā yogaḥ ca	Prayer and Yoga
8:00-8:30 am	अल्पाहारः	ālpāhāraḥ	Breakfast
8:30-9:30 am	प्रथमा कक्ष्या	prathamā kakṣyā	First class
9:40-10:40 am	द्वितीया कक्ष्या	dvitiyā kakṣyā	Second class
10:50-11:30 am	तृतीया कक्ष्या	ṭṛtīyā kakṣyā	Third class
11:30-12:10 pm	भाषाक्रीडाः	bhāṣākṛīḍāḥ	Language Games
12:30-1:30 pm	भोजनम्	Bhojanam	Lunch
1:30-2:15 pm	विश्रान्तिः	viśrāntiḥ	Free time
2:15-3:15 pm	चतुर्थी कक्ष्या	caturthī kakṣyā	Fourth Class
3:30-4:30 pm	पञ्चमी कक्ष्या	pañcamī kakṣyā	Fifth Class
4:30-5:45 pm	सङ्घटनकार्यक्रमः	saṅghaṭana-kāryakramaḥ	Outdoor group activity
5:45-6:00 pm	विश्रान्तिः	viśrāntiḥ	Free time (Clean up)
6:00-6:30 pm	भजनानि	Bhajanāni	Bhajans
6:30-7:30 pm	भोजनम्	Bhojanam	Dinner
7:45-8:30 pm	पठनम्	paṭhanam	Study hall
8:30-9:00 pm	मनोरञ्जनकार्यक्रमः	manorañjana-kāryakramaḥ	Entertainment programs
10:00 pm	निद्रा	Nidrā	Lights out and Sleep



## 5. Transportation to the Camp

### 5a) Where will the camp be held?

The camp will be held at Aksharam, Samskrita Bharati's International headquarters located in Girinagar, Bengaluru, India.

### 5b) What is the address of the campsite?

Samskrita Bharati, "Aksharam", 8th cross, 2nd Phase, Girinagar, Bengaluru, India – 560085  
Phone: (91)-80-26721052 Email: samskritam@gmail.com

### 5c) How do I get to campsite ?

Airport shuttles and cabs are available from the International airport at Bengaluru. Also, there are cabs available from the Railway Stations.

### 5d) Whom do I contact if I get lost along the way?

Please contact the Aksharam office in Bengaluru - : (91)-80-26721052.

### 5e) The camp ends at 2:00 pm on Sunday, July 30, 2017 but I am busy and will not be able to pick up my son/daughter until the evening. What do I do?

Please send an email to [medhaa@sanskritabharatiusa.org](mailto:medhaa@sanskritabharatiusa.org) or any of the contacts listed at the end of this document and contact us at the Aksharam office phone number notifying us that you will be picking up your kid late. We will accommodate him/her until the evening.

### 5f) Are there any other kids going to the camp from my area with whom I could fly?

If you are interested in booking tickets together, please either send an email to [medhaa@sanskritabharatiusa.org](mailto:medhaa@sanskritabharatiusa.org), or contact one of the volunteers listed at the bottom of the document and we will put you in touch with other participants from your area.

### 5g) Where is the closest airport and train station?

The closest airport is the Bengaluru International Airport (BLR). If your kid is traveling by plane to the camp, we recommend s/he fly into this airport. Taxi or airport shuttle ride from BLR airport to Aksharam will take approximately 90 minutes during non-peak hours.

The Bengaluru City Railway station is located across the Kempegowda Bus Station in Bangalore, Karnataka, India. Aksharam is around 10 km from there. The travel time by cab is around 30 minutes in non-peak hours and around 50 minutes during peak hours.

### 5h) Is there any transportation from the airport or train station to the campsite?

Samskrita Bharati has volunteers who will provide transportation from the airport or train station to the camp site if the student is traveling alone. Please send an email with the flight or train itinerary to [medhaa@sanskritabharatiusa.org](mailto:medhaa@sanskritabharatiusa.org) and we will arrange for pick up/drop off to the airport or train station.



**5i) What if the only flight available reaches the night before the camp starts, or will be leaving the day after the camp ends?**

Please send an email to [medhaa@sanskritabharatiusa.org](mailto:medhaa@sanskritabharatiusa.org) notifying us of the arrival and departure dates and we will provide accommodation.

**6) Facilities**

**6a) How are the lodging facilities?**

Camp participants will be housed in the Aksharam buildings. Girls and boys will be accommodated in separate buildings. A counselor will be staying with the participants at all times in each of the lodging facilities. Participants will be provided with mattresses, pillows, bed spreads and blankets.

**6b) Is there electricity in the buildings? Do the buildings have internet access?**

Yes, all the buildings have electricity with electrical sockets to plug in appliances (240V, Indian electrical connector type). There are a few computers with internet access which will be available for all the kids to use. We strongly discourage kids from bringing their personal laptops. Samskrita Bharati is not responsible for any damaged or stolen computers.

**6c) Both my kids are attending. Should they pack separate bags?**

Yes, please pack separate bags for each kid, as they may be accommodated in separate rooms.

**6d) Are there any telecommunication facilities?**

There are phones and computers with internet connection at the Aksharam office. If you would like to procure a local cellular phone connection for your child you may choose to do so.

**6e) How and when should I contact my child?**

You may contact your child through a cellular phone(if available) at times other than the class time. Otherwise, you may call the Aksharam office (91)-80-26721052

**6f) What kind of food will be available at the camp?**

Indian vegetarian food will be provided throughout the camp. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Evening Tea/Coffee/Snacks will be provided at the camp. If your child has any specific preferences, please have them bring what they need. Please let us know if your child has any dietary restrictions or allergies.

**6g) Are there any laundry facilities?**

There are no available laundry facilities (washer/dryer) at the campsite so students will be required to wash their own clothes by hand (washing soap and brushes will be provided if requested). We recommend that students bring enough clothing for 15 days.



## 7) Packing list

### 7a) List of things to bring

- If your son/daughter has a distinct personal preference, please pack sleeping bags, blankets, pillows and bed-sheets as necessary. Otherwise, we will be providing mattresses, blankets, pillows, bed-sheets, comforters etc. for all participants.
- Toiletry items (toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, comb, towels etc.), items of personal hygiene
- Personal prescription medicine (please notify us if your kid will be bringing prescription medications)
- Some warm clothing if needed (local weather is normally in the 70s F)
- Loose-fitting clothing - for Yoga sessions
- Laundry bag
- Shoes/sneakers
- Refillable water bottle
- Mosquito/insect repellent
- Personal alarm clock
- Flashlight
- Umbrella/raincoat
- Notebooks, pens/pencils
- Indian clothing for the cultural events in the evenings

### Optional:

Any musical instruments - to participate in cultural events

Camera

### 7b) What kind of clothing is necessary?

Bengaluru may get a little cool during night time, so, please pack some kind of warm clothing (sweater, light jacket, socks etc.) in addition to summer clothing to wear during class time and games. Since we have yoga/meditation session every morning, please pack some loose-fitting clothes and a yoga mat or beach towel. A poncho, umbrella, or raincoat would also be useful in case of rain. Informal Indian clothing is encouraged, especially for the evening programs.

### 7c) What should my kid NOT bring?

Any expensive items such as, jewelry, TV, iPods, video games etc. These items can break or be lost easily in the camp. Similarly, hair dryers, curling irons and other personal appliances are also strongly discouraged. Any alcohol or tobacco products are strictly prohibited and participants found to have any alcohol or tobacco products will be sent home immediately. Any luggage brought to the camp will be subject to inspection.



## 8) Health and Safety

### 8a) Is there a first-aid kit available?

There will be a generic medical kit available at the campsite. However, please notify us if your kid has a medical condition and takes medication on a regular basis. Please also have your kid bring his/her medications to the camp.

### 8b) What are the various facilities available near the camp site?

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Girinagar>

## General Information

- Please be sure to bring authorization and disclosure forms with you on the day of the camp.
- Please notify us if your kid has any specific medical or dietary needs.
- Smoking and alcohol are prohibited at any point during the camp.
- Quiet Time: 10:00pm – 6am.

Please contact us if you have any questions:

Nagaraj Mensi: <a href="mailto:nagarajamensi@gmail.com">nagarajamensi@gmail.com</a>	Aksharam Office (Bengaluru, India): <a href="mailto:samskritam@gmail.com">samskritam@gmail.com</a> (91)-80-26721052
Giri Bharathan: <a href="mailto:girib@samskritabharatiusa.org">girib@samskritabharatiusa.org</a> 978-761-1142	Govinda Yelagalawadi: <a href="mailto:govinday@samskritabharatiusa.org">govinday@samskritabharatiusa.org</a> 408-431-0507
Geetha Santhanam: <a href="mailto:geethas@samskritabharatiusa.org">geethas@samskritabharatiusa.org</a> 214-680-7420	Camp email: <a href="mailto:medhaa@samskritabharatiusa.org">medhaa@samskritabharatiusa.org</a>