Frequently Asked Questions - Prajñā Camp (June 17-23, 2017)

Venue: Walden West Science Center, 15555 Sanborn Road, Saratoga, CA 95070

1) Eligibility

1a) Who can attend?

Students entering grades 8-12 (by Fall 2017) are welcome to attend. NO prior knowledge of Samskritam or Devanagari script is required. Prior knowledge of another Indian language is beneficial but not required.

1b) My child is in 7th grade. Can s/he still attend the camp?

The grade range for students attending the camp should be 8-12 (by Fall 2017). 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?

We are aiming for 50% girls and 50% boys, however we will not know for sure until registration closes. Regardless of the number, boys and girls will be accommodated in separate rooms.

2) Registration Details

2a) What are the fees for the camp?

Fee includes lodging, food, teaching and study materials for the duration of the camp. The regular fees are $450 for the first registrant from each family, and $350 per subsequent registrant from the same family (subsequent registration discount is available only when the siblings register at the same time).

There are **early bird discounts** for those who register early! Early bird discount rates apply only to the first registrant discount.
Register by May 15th, 2017 and pay $400 for the first registrant (on-line payment by May 15th, 2017).
Register by May 31st, 2017 and pay $425 for the first teen (on-line payment by May 31st, 2017).
Regular registration fees of $450 after May 31st, 2017. LAST DATE for registration June 10th, 2017.

2b) What is a travel grant and how do I apply? When will I receive the travel grant?

Those participants who will be flying to attend the camp are eligible for a travel grant, provided that the cost of the flight ticket is greater than $200. Those who qualify for the travel grant will receive $100 for tickets over $200, $150 for tickets over $300 and $200 for tickets over $400. If you are interested in the travel grant, please check the box on the online registration form, complete the travel grant form available on the Prajñā web page, attach a copy of the itinerary with the cost of the ticket and date when the ticket was bought, and send the travel grant form before June 10th, 2017) to:

Geetha Santhanam
898 Rosette Ter
Sunnyvale CA 94086
Or scan and email pdf to geethas@samskritabharatiusa.org

Participants who have completed the application for the travel grant and qualify for it will be notified before the start of the camp. The grant will be disbursed after the camp. Please note that cancellation or no show at the camp would constitute an automatic disqualification from receiving the grant.

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

Cancellations must be made by either calling one of the volunteers listed at the end of this document or emailing prajnaa@samskritabharatiusa.org. Cancellations due to **emergency** events will be refunded in full. For non-emergency cancellations, the following guidelines will be enforced (per registration):

Cancellation time frame**	Reduction in refund (per registration)
On or before May 15, 2017	$50
May 16 to May 31, 2017	$75
June 1 to June 10, 2017	$100
After June 10, 2017 or no show at the camp	$150

2d) I've completed the basic registration, but I forgot to print the forms. What do I do?

The forms are available on the webpage (click on the **Prajñā** link from the main page: www.samskritabharatiusa.org). Please remember to print and mail completed forms to:

Geetha Santhanam
898 Rosette Ter
Sunnyvale CA 94086
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2e) When will the camp start?

Camp registration will begin at 11:30 am on Saturday, June 17, 2017. Camp activities will officially begin around 1:30 pm after lunch. The camp will end on Friday, June 23, 2017 at 1:00 pm. We will be providing lunch at 12:15 pm on both days for parents as well.

2f) Where should my teen go when s/he arrives at the camp?

All participants are expected to check in at the sign-in desk staffed by Samskrita Bharati volunteers. There will be signs (from the entrance of the camp site) to the registration desk.

2g) Can my son or daughter arrive late?

NO. We highly discourage participants from coming late, as they will be missing classes (it would be difficult to catch up with the rest of the class) as well as other activities. If you have questions, please send an email to prajnaa@samskritabharatiusa.org

2h) Can parents attend the camp?

No. Parents are discouraged from attending the camp. However, if you are a parent interested in volunteering for the camp, please let us know.

3) Activities

3a) What activities will be there at the camp?

Each day will include approximately five hours of class time, with various other outdoor and indoor activities throughout the day. A sample schedule for one day's activities is given here. Please note that this is a tentative schedule and may change.

6:00-7:00 am	जागरणं स्नानं च	jāgaraṇaṁ snānaṁ 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**	**dvitīyā kakṣyā**	**Second class**
10:50-11:30pm	**तृतीया कक्ष्या**	**tṛtīyā kakṣyā**	**Third class**
11:30-12:10 pm	भाषाक्रीडाः	bhāṣākrīḍāḥ	Language Games
12:15-1:30 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

4) Teaching

4a) My son/daughter attends Samskritam classes. Will this camp be appropriate for him/her?

As this camp is associated with the SAFL program, the classes will be split into three levels based on the SAFL program: SAMS099, SAMS103 and SAMS203. New students entering the SAFL SAMS101/102 course in Fall 2017 will be placed in the SAMS099 level. Those who have completed the SAMS102 course or those who have cleared the SAMS100 level waiver exam would be placed in the SAMS103 level. Students who have completed the SAMS202 course will be placed in the SAMS203 level.

4b) Who will be teaching?

Classes will be taught by trained and qualified Samskrita Bharati instructors.

4c) 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. Your teen may want to bring Samskritam books (especially the SAFL books, or any other Samskrita Bharati or Rashtriya Samskrita Samsthanam publications) or study material for reference; however this is optional.

5) Transportation to the Camp

5a) Where will the camp be held?

The camp will be held in Walden West Science Center in Saratoga, California

5b) What is the address of the campsite?

Walden West Science Center,
15555 Sanborn Road,
Saratoga, CA 95070

5c) How do I get to the campsite?

We will send you details regarding the directions to the venue as we get closer to the camp.

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

Please contact one of the volunteers listed at the bottom of this document.

5e) The camp ends around 1 PM on Fri June 23 but I will not be able to pick up my son/daughter until late in the evening. What do I do?

Please send an email to prajnaa@samskritabharatiusa.org notifying us that you will be picking up your teen late and we will accommodate him/her until the evening.

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

If you are interested in carpooling or booking tickets together, please send an email to prajnaa@samskritabharatiusa.org, or contact one of the volunteers listed at the bottom of the document and we will put you in touch with the other participants from your area.

5g) Where is the closest airport?

The closest airport is San Jose International Airport (SJC).

5h) Do some airlines charge fees for children under 15 traveling alone?

Some airlines do and others don't. If you are flying to the camp, please be sure to check with the airline regulations before buying your ticket. If you run across any issues with additional fees, please either send an email to prajnaa@samskritabharatiusa.org or contact one of the volunteers listed at the bottom of this document.

5i) Is there any transportation from the airport to the campsite?

Samskrita Bharati volunteers will provide transportation from the airport to the camp site. Please send an email with the flight itinerary to prajnaa@samskritabharatiusa.org and we will arrange for pick up/drop off to the airport.

5j) 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 prajnaa@samskritabharatiusa.org notifying us of the arrival and departure dates and we will provide accommodation.

6) Facilities

6a) How are the lodging facilities?

Walden West has dorm style accommodations with bunk beds. Pillows, linens and blankets would not be provided and so students need to bring them.

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. We strongly discourage teenagers from bringing laptops or other expensive technology items and neither Samskrita Bharati nor Walden West will be responsible for loss of OR damage to any personal item.

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

Yes, please pack separate bags for each teen, as they may be accommodated in separate buildings.

6d) Are there any telecommunication facilities?

Land line phones should be available on-site. There is no good signal coverage for mobile phones also in that area.

6e) What kind of food would be available at the camp?

Morning continental breakfast, Vegetarian Lunch/Dinner, Evening Tea/Coffee/Snacks would be provided at the camp. Please let us know if your teen has any dietary restrictions or allergies.

6f) Are there any laundry facilities?

There are NO Laundry facilities (washer/dryer) at the campsite. Please bring enough clothing for the duration of the camp (1 week).

7) Things to bring/Things not to bring

7a) What are the things to bring for the camp?

- Plan to pack sleeping bags/comforters/blankets, blankets, pillows and bed-sheets as necessary. Bunk beds are equipped with mattresses only.
- Toiletry items (toothpaste & toothbrush, soap, comb, towels etc.), items of personal hygiene
- Personal prescription medicine (please notify us if your teen will be bringing prescription medications)
- Some warm clothing
- 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?

Weather near San Jose is very unpredictable during summer. It may get a little cooler during nights. So, please pack some kind of warm clothing (sweater, light jacket, socks etc) in addition to summer clothing to wear during afternoon games and hiking. Also, since we have yoga/meditation session every morning, please pack some loose clothes and a yoga mat or beach towel. A poncho or umbrella or rain coat would also be useful in case it rains. In addition, some informal Indian clothing would be appropriate for the evening programs.

7c) What should my teen NOT bring?

Any expensive items such as, jewelry, TV, iPods, iPads, 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 teen has a medical condition and takes medication on a regular basis. Please also have your teen bring his/her medications to the camp.

8b) Is there any medical assistance?

There are several hospitals in San Jose within a 30 to 40 minute drive from the camp site.

General Information

- Please make sure that authorization and disclosure forms have been completed and mailed to us at the earliest and surely before June 10th.
- Please notify us if your teen has any specific medical needs or dietary needs if you have not already done so.
- Smoking and alcohol are prohibited at any point during the camp.
- Quiet Time: 10:00pm – 6am

Please contact us if you have any questions:

prajnaa@samskritabharatiusa.org

Geetha Santhanam	214-680-7420
Govinda Yelagalawadi	408-431-0507