

Gangotrii 2018 FAQ

Sanskrita Bharati Residential Camp

Friday May 4th to Sunday May 6th 2018

What is Gangotrii?

Gangotrii is a family oriented 3-day residential Sanskritam camp for both Adults and Kids (ages 5 and above) held at **Mata Amritanandamayi Center located at Elburn IL**. Camp is designed by Sanskrita Bharati to impart Sanskritam language skills using modern teaching techniques in a friendly, informal atmosphere.

Gangotrii 2018 is the ninth annual midwest camp. In the prior camps we had participants from various midwestern states like Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Ohio, as well as from Toronto, Canada.

Where and when is it held?

This year it will be held at the Mata Amritanandamayi Center 41W501 Keslinger Drive, Elburn IL 60119 from May 4th to May 6th 2018. Phone number for MA Center is 630-387-5077

Who can attend?

Anyone can attend, and no prior knowledge of Sanskritam is required for the beginner level. Familiarity with an Indian language is recommended. Many words in Sanskritam are easily understood by an Indian language speaker because of the common vocabulary between languages. This has been leveraged in designing the Sanskrita Bharati curriculum. Further, well-known characters from literary sources such as the Ramayana and the Mahabharata are used to illustrate Sanskritam concepts and usages.

Anyone under the age of 18 **must** be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Children who are five years or older will be supervised during instruction periods. At all other times, they will be the guardian's responsibility. As children under five years of age may prefer to stay with their parents, we do not have special classes for them. However, if the parents of those children agree to volunteer their time and take turns to be with the children, there might be a separate class arranged with a Sanskrita Bharati volunteer to engage those children

What are the specific times for the Gangotrii camp?

Gangotrii Registration on-site will start at Friday May 4th 2018 4:00 PM and the camp concludes at Sunday May 6th, 2018 2:00 PM. All participants to the camp must report no later than 6:00 PM on Friday May 4th.

How do I register?

You can register by visiting <http://sanskritabharatiusa.org/> and clicking on the Gangotrii 2018 Family Camp registration link.

How much does it cost?**Cost per person –**

Date of Registration	Adult	Full Time Student & children 11 and above	Kids <=10
Until April 7 th	\$190	\$120	\$80
Apr 8 to April 30	\$220	\$140	\$100
May 1 st till Camp StartDate	\$250	\$160	\$125

Please register as early as possible so we get a better head count to organize ahead.

Will there be a refund if I cancel after payment?

We are sorry that you will not be able to participate, please try your level best to participate. If indeed you have to cancel, please note the cancellation policy as below.

- Until Apr 7th 70% refund
- Until Apr 15th 50% refund
- Until May 1st 25% refund
- After May 1st no refund

I cannot attend all days of the camp. Can I attend part of the camp?

No. The instruction is structured to be a continuation over the duration of the camp. We strongly believe that this facilitates a complete immersion into Samskritam which will ensure that all attendees gain a comprehensive learning experience.

Will there be any additional discounts if I make my own arrangements for staying nearby?

Samskrita Bharati is organizing this as a residential camp and we expect everyone at the campsite to have maximum exposure to Samskritam. There will not be any additional discounts (other than the student discount as mentioned above).

Who do I call if I have difficulty reaching the campsite?

Please contact any of the volunteers at their cell numbers, given at the end of this FAQ.

Does Samskrita Bharati provide transportation?

No. But if you need help with carpooling from any near-by city, please contact our volunteers. For people flying-in, Chicago Samskrita Bharati volunteers may be able to help you with pick-ups and drop-offs.

What is nearest convenient airport where I can be picked up (or if I can rent a car)?

Chicago Ohare (ORD) or Chicago Midway (MDW) airports are the major nearby airports.

What am I expected to learn from this camp?

By the end of the camp, beginner students should be able to speak a few simple sentences in Samskritam and converse in an uninhibited manner with fellow Samskritam students and feel good about it. Many students have studied Samskrita in their school days, but may have forgotten the splendid heritage that goes with it. This is a chance to reconnect to the school days and our proud cultural heritage.

The beginner-level class introduces Samskritam speaking skills in an interactive environment. Students in this level learn to express themselves in the present, future and past tenses. Students are also exposed to vocabulary, phrases, and idioms useful in every day conversation. This level is recommended for all attendees who have not attended a spoken samskritam workshop before.

The intermediate-level class includes formalized learning of the different vibhakti-s, and lakaara-s. Svarasandhis may also be introduced. Students in this class will read simple stories, subhaashitam-s and shloka-s. Attendees registering for this level should be comfortable speaking and understanding Samskritam as the medium of instruction is Samskritam.

Students in the advanced class will study advanced topics while reading a selection from a primary text in Samskritam. In previous years, a few of the following topics were studied in each camp: samaasa, chandas, an introduction to Panini grammar, translation skills, essay writing and teacher-training. Reading selections have included portions from Samskritam works such as Bhartrhari's Vakyapadiyam, Bhasa's Pratima- natakam, and Banabhatta's Kadambari. Attendees registering for this level should be comfortable speaking and understanding Samskritam as Samskritam is the medium of instruction.

Please note the actual topic and amount of material covered may be adjusted based on the background of the participants and the available time.

Should I already know Samskritam to attend this camp?

No. Beginner's class does not require prior knowledge of Samskritam. Knowledge of any Indian language is strongly recommended.

I attended Beginners class last time, but did not pursue Samskritam further. Will I be learning the same thing again?

The material taught in the different levels will be designed taking into account the diversity in background knowledge of the participants. Teachers also adapt the material based on the constitution of each individual class, so that a majority of the students benefit from the instruction. We are sure that you will learn something new about Samskritam in the camp and strongly urge you to attend.

What level should I choose during registration?

Choose Introductory level, if you do not have any introduction to Samskritam or if you have not attended any of Samskrita Bharati local classes or workshops prior to this camp.

Choose Intermediate level, if you have attended a Samskrita Bharati camp/workshop before and have been regularly attending local classes after the workshop.

Choose Advanced Level, if you have been regularly attending classes for the last year and can read and write simple stories in Samskritam on your own and also if you are comfortable with grammatical topics such as sandhi-s, samaasas and can read and understand simple shloka-s on your own.

If you are not sure about the level, choose Beginners. You can always change it by talking to your local Samskrita Bharati volunteer.

I want to learn Samskritam, but I have a small kid aged less than 5. I am not sure what to do.

MA center provides day care facilities for kids < 5. For classes, we prefer kids older than 5 years. There are plenty of open spaces. Weather permitting, kids will have lot of fun playing around. The kids at previous Gangotri camps did not want to leave the place at the end of the camp.

What else will be in the camp, apart from teaching?

We will have a “manoranjana kAryakramam” where kids and students will participate in skits. There will also be a bookstore with several interesting Samskritam-related publications.

Also, pradarshinii – exhibition – participants are encouraged to bring Samskritam related material for exhibition

What should I bring?

Study materials will be provided by Samskrita Bharati. However, if you have any Samskritam books (abhyaasa pustakam, bhaashapravesha book-set etc.) please bring them.

Here are some of the recommendations on what to bring:

- Personal medicine (There will be a generic first-aid kit available at campsite)
- Toiletry items (toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, comb, towels etc.)
- Cosmetics, Insect repellants, umbrellas/raincoats/ponchos.
- You should bring blankets, pillow-cases and bed sheets.
- Shoes/Sneakers are strongly recommended.
- Enough clothing for three days (There is no laundry facility)
- Loose clothing for Yoga session
- Alarm Clock, Flashlight
- Notebooks/Pens/Pencils
- Yoga mats

Optionally: Audio recorders (for recording the classes), camera, chargers.

Things NOT to bring

Please do not bring any TV, Radio, Video games, iPods, expensive jewelry and other valuables. Samskrita Bharati is not responsible for any item that is lost in the camp site. This is a no-smoke facility so even incense sticks, oil lamps cannot be used in rooms.

What about parking?

There is plenty of space to park at the MA center.

Will adults and children be in the same class?

No. Adults and Kids have different ways and needs of learning and they will be in different classes.

What are the method of payments. Can I pay by check?

At present, we accept **only** PayPal. You do not need to have a paypal account to pay. You can sign in as guest and pay by credit cards.

What should I do when I arrive at the camp?

Once you arrive at the camp, proceed to **registration desk** and check-in with the Samskrita Bharati volunteers.

What is Samskrita Bharati?

Samskrita Bharati is a non profit organization committed to educating people on and about Samskritam. Please refer to Samskrita Bharati website (www.sanskritabharatiusa.org) for further info.

What is Midwest Samskrita Bharati?

Midwest Samskrita Bharati comprises of Samskrita Bharati chapters from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Toronto (Canada).

Midwest Samskrita Bharati overseas activities in the following Midwest states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin

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Who should I contact for further info?

Please contact any of our volunteers:

Padmanabhan Venkataraman	Illinois	630-670-3947
Jayantilal Patel	Illinois	630-890-7706
Sunil Chellapan	Illinois	630-640-6458
Sanjay Kalluparambil	Indiana	646-722-0785
Govindarajan Kothandaraman	Indiana	858-414-6049
Chandrasekhar Parasa	Ohio	614-570-8716
Vamsi Krishna	Ohio	417-848-7685
Kumaraswamy Hebbale	Michigan	248-804-5910
Pavan Attili	Wisconsin	414-795-0602
Harsh Thakkar	Toronto	416-602-0081

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