

## Answers to FAQs regarding recitation competition.

नमस्ते,

Welcome to Samskritam Recitation Competition (Saṁskṛta-kaṇṭhapāṭha-spardhā) annually organized by Samskrita Bharati for the 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. Below are answers to some of the frequently asked questions. If you have other questions, please feel free to send an email to [info@sanskritabharatiusa.org](mailto:info@sanskritabharatiusa.org).

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

Please refer to our website for center specific information on venue and other details. In Boston, the competition will be held on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at Chinmaya Mission Boston, 1 Union Street, Andover, MA 01810 between 3.00 PM and 5.30 PM.

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

This year, we are introducing Samkshepa Ramayanam. Ramayanam is one of the oldest epics in world literature. Sage Valmiki (known as aadikaviH or first poet) composed this treasure house of knowledge which defines Indian culture. Ramayanam consists of seven kandas (cantos) and 500 sargas, with a total of nearly 24,000 shlokas. Of these shlokas, Maharshi Valmiki has beautifully summarized the entire Ramayanam in the first 100 shlokas of Balakanda, the first book, which are also known as Samkshepa Ramayanam. The content in this document is composed from <https://www.valmiki.iitk.ac.in>. The number of verses to be memorized and recited depends on the grade-level of the participant (see below).

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

Please see our website for details that are specific to your center. Generally, there are five categories based on grade level (**see our website for details since each center may define these categories differently**).

The number of sūtras to be memorized depends on each category as follows:

atiśiśugana	(children above 3 years and KG)	6 selected verses
śiśugana	(children in 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> grades)	9 selected verses
bālagana	(children in 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> grades)	13 selected verses
yuvagana	(7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> grade and high school)	16 selected verses
prauDhagana	(adults)	20 selected verses

### 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 so many ślokas. Can my child recite these other ślokas?

We are happy that your child knows other ślokas. But for this year's competition, your child should know and recite the selected verses from Samkshepa Ramayanam that we have selected for the child's grade-level category. Please see answer to Q3.

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**6) Should a child memorize all the sutras/shlokas (verses)?**

Children are expected to memorize and recite all the verses 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 verses in their category**. For proper pronunciation and meter, please refer to the audio files on our website.

**7) What are the prizes?**

All children will get a participation certificate. Top contenders in each of the five categories will be given bonus prizes. The number of top contenders will depend on the total number of participants in a given category – as a rule of thumb, **one** top contender (aka bonus prize) **trophy for every five participants**. **PLEASE NOTE** – If there are less than five participants in any category, this category may be merged with another category for determining top contenders.

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

The results of the competition will be declared after the competition and prizes and certificates would be distributed on the same day at the end of the program.

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

This event is free and there is no fee for participation. Samskrita Bharati is a voluntary organization and any donation to support its cause is always welcome. Please visit our website on how you can contribute.

**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?**

All participants should arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the competition and check in with our volunteer at the front desk. However, 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) Will there be any practice session that children can attend?**

Some centers intend to hold weekly group practice sessions. Please send an email to [boston@sanskritabharatiusa.org](mailto:boston@sanskritabharatiusa.org) for details.

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जयतु संस्कृतम्।

संस्कृतभारती

जयतु मनुकुलम्।

### 13) Can parents or other adults participate?

Certainly. Adults can also participate and compete by reciting the prescribed verses from memory. Please refer to Question 3 (or) our website for details regarding the number of verses prescribed for the different categories.

### 14) 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 [boston@sanskritabharatiusa.org](mailto:boston@sanskritabharatiusa.org) (or) calling one of the contacts listed below at the earliest.

Satya Kanakagiri	508•371•3080	T R Venkatesh	978•204•4923
Giri Bharathan	978•761•1142	Santhi Pasumarthi	978•412•5459
Kavitha Chivukula	781•968•5822	Sam Mohan	978.409.8654

It would help us plan the event better since no-shows hurt any competition.

If you have more questions, please feel free to send an email to [boston@sanskritabharatiusa.org](mailto:boston@sanskritabharatiusa.org). Have a wonderful time memorizing verses from Samkshepa Ramayanam with your children.

इति शम् । iti śam ||  
saṁskṛtabhāratī-kāryakartr-gaṇaḥ |

## DID YOU KNOW...

### 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 have been running 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 (2017-19), more than 300 children have enrolled in SAFL program and we expect the number to grow to 350+ students in the next 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, Samskrita 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 2018, we conducted seven summer camps (two youth camps, 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)

In select centers, we will be conducting week-long day camps for children. Please visit our website (<http://www.sanskritabharatiusa.org>) or write to [info@sanskritabharatiusa.org](mailto:info@sanskritabharatiusa.org) for details.