



BALAVIKAS OF FAIRFAX

Co-Sponsored by SV Lotus Temple



YOUTH DAY COMPETITIONS - 2025

(Competitions For Pre-Elementary To High School Students)

Saturday, June 21, 2025

Check-In: 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m

(Competitions start immediately afterwards)

at

SV Lotus Temple

12501 Braddock Road
Fairfax, VA 22030

All are welcome to participate. **There is no cost for participation.**

Food is available for purchase in the temple cafeteria.

All participants will be recognized with certificates. Winners will be awarded Trophies.

Competitors Pre-register Online at



Registration closes on June 20, 2025, at 11:59 PM

Judges/Volunteers Pre-register Online at



For more information or questions/concerns, please reach out to Competition Directors:

Vyochana Mamillapali (571-395-3508) & Siri Duddella (703-623-7474)

Or Send E-Mail to yd@balavikas.org

CATEGORIES

Pre-Elementary (Grade 1 and below): *Coloring, Religious Chanting, Story Telling*

Elementary I (Grades 2-3): *Coloring, Religious Chanting, Story Telling, Recitation*

Elementary II (Grades 4-5): *Coloring, Religious Chanting, Story Telling, Recitation*

Intermediate (Grades 6-8): *Religious Chanting, Recitation, Speech, Essay*

High School (Grades 9-12): *Religious Chanting, Recitation, Speech, Essay*

If interested in Recitation, download the relevant pieces from <http://www.balavikas.org>

PLEASE VISIT <http://www.balavikas.org> FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

High School:

Essay: Altruism refers to a “belief in or practice of disinterested and selfless concern for the wellbeing of others.” As Hindus, how can we continue to live altruistic lives in an increasingly transactional and individualistic society?

Speech: Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa’s quote “As many faiths, so many paths” highlights the pluralistic nature of Hinduism or the belief in the validity of differing religious paths. Hinduism is unique because monotheists, atheists, and agnostics can all operate under its framework. What core tenets in Hindu literature do you believe bind individuals who disagree on the existence of a supreme being?

Intermediate:

Essay: “Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind” - Albert Einstein. What does this quote mean to you? How do you believe Hinduism exists in the ever-changing landscape of scientific innovation?

Speech: Ahimsa, or nonviolence, is one of the core principles of Hinduism. It means more than just avoiding physical harm – it’s about kindness in thought, word, and action. In today’s world, where violence can take many forms – bullying, hate, speech, environmental harm, or social injustice, how can we practice ahimsa in our daily lives?

FAQS:

- 1. Please bring your own pencils, crayons, and paper. To be consistent, only crayons will be allowed for coloring competition.**
- 2. Drawing for the coloring competition will be given on the day of the competition, and a 60-minute time period will be allotted for coloring.**
- 3. Essays for these assigned topics can be prepared and researched ahead of time, however on the day of the competition, no notes or references can be used. Essays must be written in the 60 minute time period allotted.**
- 4. Speeches must be between 3-5 minutes with a 30-second grace period.**
- 5. Every religious chant (regardless of language or religion) must be explained in English. These chants must be between 2 - 3 minutes with a 30-second grace period.**
- 6. Stories with a clear moral and ethical message (irrespective of religious origin) will be accepted. Stories must be between 2-3 minutes with a 30-second grace period.**
- 7. Your grade is the one you will be entering in the new school year.**