

Summer Youth Camp 2015 at Radha Madhav Dham, Austin TX

Join this Extraordinary Family Camp from June 27 to July 11, 2015

Radha Madhav Dham's 2015 Summer Family Camp is approaching fast. More than 250 families from all over the country and even world, come to this idyllic and scenic ashram situated in the Hill Country of Austin Texas, to attend this family camp. Many kids, instead of going to soccer camp, sleep-away camp, traveling or playing video games choose to come here sometimes forcing their parents to make this happen! What is so extraordinary about this camp that makes kids want to come back again and again to a camp organized by a temple? Kids have more fun than they can imagine, an extraordinary kind of fun that they don't expect – and, its not just because of activities organized at camp its because of everything they gain when they are here.... they never want to leave this place once they get here.

The two weeks spent at the camp gives youth a deeper sense of their own self, they understand their roots, their culture & heritage and start feeling a sense of pride and confidence in who they are, an Indian and a Hindu. It bonds them with the temple community since this place lets them be who they are



New friends are made and old friends reunite at the Summer Camp at Radha Madhav Dham every year.

debate & logic, robotics, special projects

- Make lifelong friends with other children who share similar interests and create lifetime bonds so they can become your devotional support
- Have their spiritual questions answered by the Camp's experienced teachers so you can build an understanding of your Hindu heritage.
- Build a relationship with God by learning simple, practical and easy ways to build a sweet devotional relationship with and come close to God

"I've been going to family camp for a long time, and if there is one thing I know, it's that it gets better with each year, you create connection with them that lasts a lifetime. The bonds that are forged over the course of the camp are unlike anything else" says Vyasara a long time camp attendee who has this year chosen to take on the responsibility of running the camp and inspire other kids.

Your family too can immerse in learning about the wonders of Indian culture, heritage and spirituality by attending this extraordinary Hindu Family Camp at Radha Madhav Dham.



Pracharak teaching in session.

- they don't have to pretend, they can just be! They also have fun being together with so many other like-minded kids, the bonding among them becomes special... they recognize these kids as heir own brother and sisters they can count on in their lives which they know is not possible in the external world.

Adults participate in their own way, with people of their own ages in interactive sessions with preachers, workshoping the difficulties they have in raising children as Hindus in a Western world, challenges in understanding Hinduism or learning how to develop their own spiritual practice. They get an opportunity to do their

own electives - learning to play musical instruments, learning to chant and listening to spiritual discourses. The best part for them is that they don't have to worry about taking care of their kids... they can spend the entire time on their own self-learning, developing and having fun. It's a precious sweet time for everyone there... and



Families participate in the Family camp.

truly an inspiring thing to see.

There is an incredible community of devoted volunteers, teachers and staff who put together a truly memorable experience for children of all ages and in parallel for participating adults. Your family will have the opportunity to:

- Learn about Hindu-

ism through interactive discussions, debates & fun learning sessions. It will clarify your questions on Hinduism

- Explore the wonders of Indian culture by participating in your choice of electives such as dance, music, harmonium, dholak, stage performances, prasad making, philosophy,

Just come and experience it for yourself.

Experience the joy of home at Radha Madhav Dham. Register today. Registration for the Camp is free.

Book your overnight accommodations by visiting www.radhamadhavdham.org or calling 512-288-7180.

US spelling bee ends in a tie -- again



Speller Vanya Shivashankar (L) of Olathe, Kansas, and speller Gokul Venkatachalam (R) of St. Louis, Missouri, hold up the trophy after winning the 2015 Scripps National Spelling Bee May 28, 2015 in National Harbor, Maryland. AFP.com / Getty Images / Alex Wong

The world's premier spelling bee ended in a tie in the US for a second year in a row after an intense 10-round showdown between two young contestants who tackled some of the English language's most obscure words.

Vanya Shivashankar, 13, and Gokul Venkatachalam, 14, together hoisted the gold trophy amid a flurry of confetti after they clinched the 88th Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Shivashankar, the sister of 2009 champion Kavya Shivashankar, initially oozed confidence as she breezed through such words as cytopoiesis, bouquetiere and tha-

makau.

Venkatachalam, a basketball fanatic sporting sharp Air Jordans, also tackled such tongue-twisters as poblacion, caudillismo and nixtamal with panache.

But as their eight fellow finalists stumbled one by one, the tension grew until they stood alone on stage at the Gaylord resort by the Potomac River outside Washington.

When Shivashankar, in the fourteenth round, correctly spelled scherenschnitte, the German-derived word for artistic paper cutting, official bee pronouncer Jacques Bailly, broke the news to Venkatachalam.

The contest, Bailly said, was about to run out of words, and if

Venkatachalam spelled his next word correctly, he and his rival would be declared joint winners -- a repeat of last year's surprise tie.

The winning word came so easily to the eighth-grader from the affluent St. Louis, Missouri suburb of Chesterfield that he skipped the bee contestant's routine of asking for the word's origin, meaning and usage in a sentence.

"N-u-n-a-t-a-k" the devoted LeBron James fan said, spelling the Inuit-derived word for a glacial island as breezily as if he was spelling d-o-g or c-a-t.

Asked afterwards what went through his mind upon hearing the word, Venkatachalam can-

didly replied: "Me and Vanya are going to be champions."

It was only the fifth time that the National Spelling Bee has ended in a tie since it began in 1925, when gladiolus was the winning word.

It was also the eighth year in the row that American youngsters of South Asian heritage have clinched the title -- a trend that Thursday appeared to provoke fewer racially-tinged posts on social media than last year.

Indeed, of the 10 finalists, seven were Indian American, and none was more closely watched than Shivashankar, from the little-known Great Plains tech hub of Olathe, Kansas -- so much so that the bee featured her prominently

on the banner of its official Twitter feed.

It was her fifth time at the bee, where she tied for fifth place in 2013 and 13th place last year, and due to her age it would also be her last chance at spelling glory.

- "This is a dream come true. I've wanted this for such a long time," said the eighth-grader who lists eating pizza and playing the tuba and piano among her favorite pastimes.

She dedicated her victory to her grandmother, who died last October. "All she wanted was for her grandkids to do well," she said. "I hope she's happy with this."

Coming in third was Cole Shafer-Ray, 14, an eighth-grader from

Norman, Oklahoma who fumbled in round four on acritarch, a word for small organic fossils.

Competing for the third year in a row, he came across as a poor sport when he ducked a consolation kiss from his mother and went all-in for the snack bowl -- all seen on live national television.

An American institution, the Scripps National Spelling Bee brought together 285 spellers from all over the United States as well as seven foreign countries.

They were the elite of the more than 11 million youngsters, typically aged nine through 15, who competed in local and regional spelling bees this past school year.



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Lalit Jallan
Sales Manager
Mass Mutual Greater Houston
3 Greenway Plaza, Suite: 1800
Houston, TX 77046
713-545-9269
ljallan@financialguide.com
www.financialguide.com/lalit-jallan



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