

Ambassador Program for NSF Alumni (APNA): FAQs

1. **Do you need to be an NSF alumnus (participated in workshops or competitions) to teach?**
 - a. The answer is Yes! Absolutely! The NSF APNA program is an Ambassador program that aims to provide a platform to Indian American students who have been participating in NSF Bees and thus have attained a certain level of familiarity with our Foundation, its goals, its format and also invaluable experience in subject matter related to Spelling, Math, Geography or Science. As an ambassador of NSF, the student represents the Foundation and achieves the dual goal of contributing to their native country thereby establishing a connection and interacting with local students in India - thus broadening their perspective and horizons.
 - b. As an additional option, this program is open to students who may not have participated in the bees but are currently associated with NSF as US based volunteers for at least a year. To learn more about our volunteer opportunities please visit the website www.northsouth.org
2. **Is this program open to certain age group?**
 - a. The program is open to students in High school and beyond, as we believe that to be an appropriate age when students have built a critical mass of knowledge through their participation and are ready to transfer knowledge in a meaningful manner.
3. **What kind of schools are we targeting in India?**
 - a. Typically, the schools that benefit most with our help are vernacular schools. NSF has a tie up with Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) Schools which exist in about 600 towns or rural areas in India. These schools are some of our primary target audience. However, we do not have restrictions and in fact, welcome targeting other municipal, public or even private schools in India, provided the volunteers are able to coordinate the logistics with the schools in their geography (where they intend to stay during their stay in India).
4. **Do we have separate workshop packages for English vs. vernacular schools?**
 - a. No. All workshop material with NSF is in English and it is not possible to convert all the material in the various state languages. Additionally, most of our student volunteers primarily would be comfortable teaching in English only. In cases where the Indian schools need translation services, parents have historically provided support and served as conduits between our APNA youth volunteers and the school.
5. **Do we require an orientation process from NSF to take the student through the material before they launch?**
 - a. Yes, absolutely! We will host a Webinar for the APNA youth team (and their parents) to run through the material and provide teaching tips.
6. **Who identifies the school? Do we have any schools which we have tied up with?**
 - a. In most cases, the APNA Youth Ambassadors and their parents take an active role in identifying the school and approaching the principal, etc. for permission to conduct workshops. This is the most productive approach as it allows you to hold workshops where you will be visiting in India. NSF also has a tie up with JNV schools in India which exist in over 600 towns or rural areas and as we already have a foot in the door here, it is easier to coordinate logistics with these national level Indian schools.

7. Who contacts the Indian school authorities for permission?

- a. The onus to contact the schools and arrange workshop dates and times lies with the APNA youth ambassador as this has proven to be most efficient. NSF will provide support with standardized paperwork and permission letters.

8. Which subjects do we teach? And what grades in India?

- a. NSF has material for three workshops: Spelling, Math and Science. The material is divided into levels, like Junior and Senior in the case of Spelling, Level 1, 2 and 3 in the case of Math, and Junior, Intermediate and Senior in case of Science. High schools in India range from 6th grade (equivalent) to 10th grade. So the focus of APNA youth would be at the second and third levels.

9. How many days/hours will the workshop last?

- a. Typically workshops are held for a week. i.e., each workshop in Spelling, Math or Science would run through for a week. This would be followed by a contest for the participating students in the workshop.
- b. It is up to the APNA youth ambassador to provide any recognition to the winners of the contests organized after the workshop.
- c. NSF will provide a pre-formatted certificate in WORD format, which can be used to print and distribute to the participants. However, the expense and processing of certificates is up to the APNA youth ambassador. NSF will not be responsible for any expenses related to the workshop, contests and awards distributed in India.

10. What is the process of completion? What kind of recognition given to APNA participants?

- a. We have established a feedback process to obtain constructive comments from both the school authorities/students and APNA youth ambassadors. The forms will help us in our efforts for continuous improvement of this program.
- b. We would expect the APNA youth ambassador to submit a detailed report on their visit and workshop experience to add to our perspective and build on our existing training material.
- c. NSF will recognize APNA youth ambassadors during national and regional contests with awards and/or certificates for their volunteering; they will also receive help in filling out forms for volunteer service requirement of their school/college.
- d. NSF India, upon successful completion of program, will issue a certificate to the Ambassador.

11. Can they repeat these workshops? i.e., teach again next year?

- a. Again, this will be our long term goal, to establish on-going relationships with the schools in India and build lasting value through this process. Additionally, we plan to use the APNA program to identify deserving candidates for our scholarships in India.

12. How do I apply?

- a. Please download our form, which has been placed on our website. For additional questions please contact:

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