NORTH SOUTH FOUNDATION
Encouraging Excellence in Education

BEE BOOK 2018
SPELLING BEE • VOCABULARY BEE • GEOGRAPHY BEE • PUBLIC SPEAKING • MATH BEE • BRAIN BEE • SCIENCE BEE • ESSAY WRITING

26th National Finals
September 1-2, 2018
University of Maryland, College Park, MD
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Madhushalini Bhaskar  
Co-Convener

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Jaya Lakshmi Neti  
Co-Convener

&

Srikanth Yaragudipati  
Communications
Dear Children and Parents,

A hearty welcome to the University of Maryland, College Park. Congratulations on qualifying for the 26th edition of the North South Foundation Finals. It is with great pleasure that the NSF 2018 Finals Team welcomes you to this two day event at this flagship university of the state of Maryland.

With each passing year, NSF is gaining more and more recognition. NSF has added significant focus to its core mission of being a great charitable non-profit organization providing scholarships to talented but economically disadvantaged students in India. For the year 2017-2018, NSF has provided scholarships in India worth around $410,000. NSF now has more than 90 chapters in the country. NSF is adding more and more volunteers and resources to better prepare the children in different academic streams. Hosting the Finals is always a huge challenge as we need to prepare ourselves to meet, if not exceed, the expectations of the children and parents. We want to make sure that we put a smile on the face of each and every child, who has worked diligently in preparing for this event. The Core teams of Facilities, Volunteers, Registration, Technical Coordination, Grading, Food, Hospitality, Communication and Awards have worked very hard to ensure the Finals go as smoothly as possible and meet your expectations.

The ESJ building opened recently and with its latest infrastructure should provide a great venue for the NSF Finals. To cater to the large audience expected at the Spelling Bee Phase 3, we decided to hold this event in the Hoff Theater. The Memorial Chapel should provide a fantastic backdrop to the Awards Ceremony.

In addition to the main event, we will be hosting several Meet-the-Pro sessions and other informational activities that should help prepare the students in their academic journey. To provide icing on the cake, we have three great Keynote and Chief Guest Speakers who will definitely inspire and motivate the students to greater heights.

We are very grateful to University of Maryland, College Park for providing us excellent facilities to host the NSF 2018 Finals. Our sincere thanks to all the sponsors for their generous contributions.

An event of this magnitude would not have been possible without the support of the volunteers. Our sincere thanks to each and every volunteer who made this Finals possible with their tireless effort. Last but not least, we would like to thank each and every participant, their parents and family for coming to the Finals and making it a great success. Hope you all have a great time at the Finals and also visiting all the interesting museums, monuments and historical places in the Washington DC Metro Area.

Murty Neti
Convener

Madhushalini Bhaskar
Co-Convener

Jaya Lakshmi Neti
Co-Convener
On behalf of the North South Foundation, we welcome you all to this year’s NSF National Finals being hosted at the University of Maryland, College Park. It gives us great pleasure to know that the NSF Family will gather this year in our home state and celebrate the 26 years of excellence that this Foundation has sustained.

NSF’s national competitions have inspired kids, year after year, to attain extraordinary achievements. For the past 26 years, NSF has fostered a multitude of champions across various national and international competitions. NSF is changing many children’s lives here in the US and is instilling in them many values such as hard work and perseverance. These life lessons that the children gain through NSF will serve them well in the future.

Dr. Murali Gavini created this organization to help bright kids in India receive the proper funding they need for their education. His vision, along with Dr. Chitturi’s, has allowed NSF to not only achieve that mission in India, but also spread that message throughout the US. The growth of NSF over the past 26 years has been the result of all the volunteers contributing tirelessly for the betterment of the Foundation.

While you partake in this year’s National Finals, please take the time to experience the variety of fun and unique attractions we have in the Washington, DC Metro Area. The metro area is a treasure trove of monuments and museums that fit the interests of almost everybody and nearby Baltimore is famous for its seafood and has many notable attractions including the National Aquarium.

For all student competitors, no matter what your result is, you are all winners. You have made it to the national level of different contests and should be proud of yourself for all the preparation you have put forth for the contests. We wish you the best and hope that you have a great time. The National Finals is an exciting experience and also a unique opportunity to meet folks from all over the country.

The Bee Book Team received several responses to requests for articles to be published in the Bee Book, from kids, parents, champions, and past champions. This shows the amount of talent, creativity and enthusiasm present in the NSF Family. We would like to thank everyone who responded for their part in helping us create this. We believe that Bee Book will help you remember your memorable experience this year and also feel inspired by your peers and predecessors.

Finally, we would like to thank all the volunteers who have made the hosting of a National Finals in Maryland a dream come true. The Bee Book Team wishes all a very fun and exciting time here in Maryland and good luck in all your future endeavors.

Best regards,

2018 NSF Bee Book Team
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Finals convener’s note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bee Book Editorial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Message from Maryland Governor Larry Hogan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Message from U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Message from U.S. Senator Ben Cardin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Message from Maryland House of Delegate Aruna Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Message from City of College Park Mayor Patrick L. Wojahn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>NSF National Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>How Your Child Can Become a High Achiever – Ratnam Chitturi, Founder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>A note from North South Foundation Chairman Rao Chalasani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>NSF India Scholarships Report 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Scholarship Recipient Mani Sai Article &amp; Poem and Bee Artwork from NSF Chennai Chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>My Experience with the NSF Scholarship Program in Vijaywada Chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>My NSF Experience from Karthik Nemmani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Junior Spelling Bee photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>The Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Oh the place you’ll go......!! &amp; Bee Word Search</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>The Best Treasure in the World &amp; Steps of Studying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Senior Spelling Bee Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>My Experience in the National Geographic Bee from Anoushka Buddhikot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>What It Takes to Parent an NSF Child: Thoughts from a Mom and Psychologist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Junior Geography Bee Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>Everything Is Within Reach &amp; Brain Quatrains / Definitions of Genius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Personal Message from Ved Muthasamy &amp; Jokes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>Senior Geography Bee Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>My Growth in Academics from Govind Prabhakar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>How Can You Become a Change Maker by Aadith Moorthy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Artwork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>Bee Crossword Puzzle &amp; Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>Math Bee Level 1 Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>Math Bee Level 2 Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87</td>
<td>My Amazing Voyage through NSF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>Math Bee Level 3 Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>An Educational Journey &amp; growing Together: A Parent's Perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>Junior Vocabulary Bee Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>The Bee: What it means to me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>Intermediate Vocabulary Bee Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>113</td>
<td>Senior Essay Writing Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>Senior Public Speaking Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>Bee-ing at the Bee &amp; My First Time Competing In NSF Nationals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119</td>
<td>Intermediate Brain Bee Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>123</td>
<td>Top Colleges Attended by Top Three Ranks at National Finals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td>An Interview with Brain Bee Champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127</td>
<td>Senior Brain Bee Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>129</td>
<td>Junior Science Bee photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>139</td>
<td>Intermediate Science Bee photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>147</td>
<td>Senior Science Bee Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>155</td>
<td>NSF Children in National Level Major League Competitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>158</td>
<td>North South Foundation Regional Chapters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>North South Champions 2008-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>164</td>
<td>North South Foundation National Core Teams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>166</td>
<td>2018 Rank Scholarships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>167</td>
<td>2018 Perfect Scores in Regionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>168</td>
<td>North South Foundation Distinguished Service Award</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
September 1-2, 2018
2018 North South Foundation National Competitions
University of Maryland, College Park

A Message from Governor Larry Hogan

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the 2018 North South Foundation National Competitions, hosted by University of Maryland, College Park! I am delighted to provide this welcoming message to you on this wonderful occasion.

The North South Foundation (NSF) was founded as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 1989, in order to help develop the academic and leadership potential of Indian and Indian-American students. Each year, NSF conducts regional and national competitions in spelling, vocabulary, math, essay writing, public speaking, and brain and geography bees for students throughout the United States, and provides scholarships for academic excellence to help deserving students throughout India attend college. On behalf of the State of Maryland, I wish all of the competitors the best of luck, and thank the North South Foundation for making this innovative and impactful event possible.

Best wishes for a memorable weekend and for continued progress in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Larry Hogan
Governor
Dear Friends:

I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 2018 North South Foundation National Competitions. As a United States Senator for Maryland, I am pleased to welcome you to the beautiful State of Maryland for this unique and special event. I am also happy to offer my best wishes to the members of the North South Foundation and to the students, parents, and volunteers attending this national competition.

My congratulations go to every participant in today’s competitions. As you participate in the North South Foundation’s programs, you are developing academic and leadership skills that will help you succeed in all that you do and are taking advantage of NSF’s efforts to promote scholarship, friendship, and excellence across international boundaries. I know that you all will take great pride in upholding these values throughout your lives.

You have my best wishes for successful and enjoyable National Competitions.

Sincerely,

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

Not printed at government expense
September 1, 2018

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to welcome everyone attending the 2018 North South Foundation (NSF) National Competitions at University of Maryland. Each year, this event provides bright Indian-American students the opportunity to showcase their academic success. Over the next two days, students with passions for spelling, geography, vocabulary, public speaking, science, math, and even neuroscience can demonstrate their knowledge and hard work.

For over 30 years the NSF has worked to provide educational opportunities to young people in the United States and India. In the U.S., the NSF provides skills training and hosts academic competitions to help children gain confidence and feel a sense of community. The North South Foundation consistently sends students to top competitions like the Scripps National Spelling Bee and MATHCOUNTS. In India, the NSF chapters also host competitions and provide talented students with undergraduate scholarships. The NSF aims to make education accessible to children regardless of geographic location, gender, religion, or caste.

Educating our future generations in an environment that values community and equality is essential to a productive society. The life lessons that children learn from their time participating in NSF programs will no doubt serve them in the future. I am proud to welcome the NSF to Maryland for your national event.

My best wishes for a successful competition, and best of luck to all participants.

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator
September 1, 2018

Dear participants of the 2018 North South Foundation National Finals at the University of Maryland:

On behalf of the North South Foundation, the constituents of Maryland’s 15th Legislative District and the State of Maryland, I am pleased to extend my personal greetings to everyone participating in the 2018 NSF National Finals.

This year’s competition is taking place at the beautiful campus at the University of Maryland and I am elated that College Park was chosen as the host city for this event. I am confident that each person participating in this year’s National Finals will not only continue to achieve academic excellence but will also continue to grow and excel in any field that they choose to pursue.

In addition, while The National Finals constitute a competition — in my mind you are all winners. The perseverance and dedication that it takes to simply make it to the Finals coupled with your superb public speaking, essay writing, math, vocabulary, geography, science and critical thinking skills will provide the foundation you need to succeed in any endeavor.

I would also like to take a moment and thank the parents and coaches of the participants for their amazing support, your job is not easy! The competition and its ability to cultivate the best in our youth gives me hope that our future will be as bright as you are!

Once again, on behalf of all Marylanders, welcome to the 2018 North South Foundation’s National Finals and congratulations to all the participants of this prestigious event.

Best Regards,

Delegate Aruna Miller
District 15, Montgomery County
September 1, 2018

North South Foundation
2018 National Finalists

Greetings from the City of College Park!

We are delighted to learn that The North South Foundation will hold the 2018 National Finals at the University of Maryland College Park on September 1-2, 2018 and extend a warm welcome to all the students, parents and volunteers who have travelled to Maryland for this event.

Of course, we all know that you are winners already, but your participation in these prestigious national finals must make you especially proud of your achievements.

We appreciate that you selected College Park as your destination this year. I hope that you will have some time while you are in our City to explore all that this area has to offer. Children will especially enjoy a visit to the College Park Aviation Museum and Lake Artemesia. You also might find an interesting performance at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center or MilkBoy Arthouse. And of course, many more attractions in our nation's capital are easily accessible via the College Park Metrorail station.

On behalf of the City Council and our residents, I welcome you and your families to the City of College Park and extend our best wishes for the 2018 national competition.

Sincerely,

Patrick L. Wojahn
Mayor

Home of the University of Maryland
NSF National Committee

Rao Chalasani  Dr. Ratnam Chitturi  Dr. Gopala Krishna Kodali  Dr. Raj Jayachandran  Venkat Gade
G. Jagadeesh  Anita Gavini  Savitha Rajiv  Anitha Rajagopalan  Prasanna Paralkar
Janevi Ramaji  Praveen Katta  Suri Jetty  Sampath Narayanan  Sai Rachakonda
Jyotshna Gunturu  MS Rao  Srinivas Gudeti  Prasad Pedireddi  Dr. Ganesh Dasari
All parents want their children to be successful. Having started the academic bees more than 25 years ago, North South Foundation (NSF) has gained considerable experience on what it takes a child to be a high achiever. By digging deeper and doing some data mining, we have been able to discover a few insights. We will share these insights with a few examples in the hope that they might be useful for your children.

Discovery 1:

**Persistence Pays**

The longer a child stays with NSF, the higher is the chance that your child will achieve one of the top 10 ranks at the NSF National Finals. As seen in the charts, if a child starts in KG and stays with NSF until 8th grade, the child is 100 percent assured of reaching one of the top 10 ranks. This is true in all subjects.

Note: More than 100 percent indicates that the child got top ranks in more than one subject.

We conducted a survey of children who achieved one of the top 10 ranks in a given subject at the NSF National Finals since 2006. Nearly 750 families were contacted. So far, we received 40 percent response rate, which is very good. We wanted to know what resources they used to become high achievers. Here are some results.
More than 80 percent used Singapore Math Books to practice math problems. Math Kangaroo and Khan Academy were next at 42 and 33 percent, respectively. NSF online coaching was used by 20 percent of the high achievers.

100 percent of the high achievers used MATHCOUNTS material. AoPS (Art of Problem Solving) was next at 78 percent and AMC8 at 73 percent. More than 30 percent used NSF Coaching.

78 percent of the high achievers utilized Science – A Closer Look, while 59 percent used Science Quizzes and 24 percent used NSF Coaching.

Discovery 2:
Math / Grades 1 thru 5: Singapore Math Books are predominantly the key resource for high achievers.

Math / Grades 6, 7, 8: MATHCOUNTS, AoPS and AMC8 are the key resources for high achievers.

Science / Grades 1 thru 5: High Achievers used predominantly the Science - A Closer Look (one book for each grade) by Macmillan/McGraw-Hill
Science / Grades 6, 7, 8: High Achievers used predominantly Glencoe Science Level – Red, Green, Blue.

All high achievers used one or more of the Glencoe Science Level Red/Green/Blue books. 35 percent used Science Quizzes and National Science Bowl material. Nearly 20 percent took NSF coaching.

Discovery 3: High achievers spent extra time in Math preparation / Grades 1 thru 5:

About 16 percent, 1 in 6, spent more than 10 hours a week extra, 29 percent spent between 6 and 10 hours a week and 55 percent spent less than 5 hours per week.

Math / Grades 6, 7, 8:

More than 40 percent of the high achievers spent more than 10 hours a week extra, 36 percent spent between 6 and 10 hours a week and 23 percent spent less than 5 hours a week.
Science / Grades 1 thru 5:

31 percent of the high achievers spent between 6 and 10 hours a week extra time studying science, while 63 percent spent less than 5 hours per week and 6 percent spent more than 10 hours a week.

Science / Grades 6, 7, 8:

42 percent of the high achievers spent between 6 and 10 hours a week extra time studying science, while 50 percent spent less than 5 hours per week and 8 percent spent more than 10 hours a week.

All of the resources mentioned above appear on the NSF Website under the Preparation section.

Here are the key resources used by high achievers in other subjects.

**Spelling:**
http://www.myspellit.com/
NSF Spelling Game/Workshop
https://spellingmantra.com/

**Vocabulary:**
NSF Online Vocabulary Game
Word Power Made Easy

**Geography:**
GB Handbook 1001 Q&A
NSF Online Coaching
Handy Geography Answer Book
NGB Official Study Guide
A note from North South Foundation  
Chairman Rao Chalasani

NSF is hitting new milestones in succession both in the US and India. The winning streak at Spelling Bee and Geography hasn’t missed a beat in 2018. The knowledge, maturity, and demeanor of the winners were in vivid display. Winning isn’t everything. The wholesomeness is what makes the individual, family, and the community. I congratulate and thank the winners, the families behind them, the selfless work of the coaches, and scores of volunteers that make the journey a fun filled experience.

NSF India is now working with all 595 JNV schools making the footprint of NSF throughout India including the Union Territories. Over 200 schools are in the development stage that look like JNV in being residential schools and somewhat similar infrastructure. The contest registrations, when finished, are expected to exceed 100,000 this year. It is a remarkable achievement built on a brand new technology platform that is going through some improvements. A new program called HUMstudy to be unveiled later this year on the same tech platform is expected to be even bigger in scope with far-reaching implications. It is developed to make students creative learners, give teachers a dashboard with the student-specific learning curve to pay individualized attention to students and provide the Management of the school system deep insights to take corrective actions when needed.

We are fortunate to have the participation of Dr. Bill Drayton, the trailblazer of social entrepreneurship and mentoring and Mr. A.N. Ramachandra, the Joint-Commissioner of JNV whose vision made the contribution of NSF to JNV possible.

I wish the participants good luck, parents the opportunity to watch their children shine, volunteers the gift of giving, and honor the sweat of the management for making this event happen. As always, our theme “Every participant is a winner,” remains permanently etched in our collective consciousness.

Rao Chalasani  
Chairman, North South Foundation
Two major activities of North South Foundation (NSF) are:

1. To promote excellence in human endeavor by organizing impeccable academic contests in US and India
2. To help poorest of the poor kids in India by providing scholarships to pursue higher studies

NSF has been conducting academic contests for over 29 years and helping several thousands of young students in US improve their academic skills. At the same time, about 17,000 students in India pursued higher education in the last 10 years alone because of NSF India scholarships.

The identification of the most deserving candidates, with top-notch academic record and true financial need, is not an easy task. The eligibility criteria for NSF India scholarships are:

- Student must be in top 10% in 10th, 12th class and in a competitive entrance test (e.g. NEET)
- Secured admission to pursue Engineering, Medicine, or 3 year diploma degree and Family income should be less than Rs 100,000 per year

There are a large number of (30+) chapters distributed all over India, with headquarters in Hyderabad; see the map below. The Chapter Coordinators (CCs) and corresponding Liaisons in US do an excellent job of identifying students who are academically brilliant but in the need of financial support.

The announcement for the scholarships goes out in the month of July and applications are accepted till end of October. The scholarships are announced in major newspapers, online, personal references, as well as by word of mouth. The CCs collect information, review the application and make a recommendation to the NSF main office in Hyderabad. The NSF Hyderabad office sends the final list to the US for approval. A schematic diagram of the process is shown in the Figure below.
Each chapter in India organizes scholarships distribution and recognizes the students. A photo from such an event in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh is shown below. These types of events are held all over India and gets local and national TV coverage, as shown in the Figure below as an example.
How can NSF parents in US help?

First of all, you are already helping. Thank you. Every time your child participates in any NSF competition, workshop or an online coaching, you are helping a poor child in India.

NSF has been distributing scholarships for about 29 years. The number of scholarships awarded in 1989 was one and ever since the number of scholarships have been increasing. The chart below shows the number of scholarship awarded in the last 10 years. The total number of scholarships was about 2500 in years 2013 and 2014. The total money distributed in the academic year 2017-18 was approximately INR 275 lakhs (or about 410,000 USD). There are very few organizations who consistently award scholarships of about 410,000 USD every year in India, and NSF is one of them. We all should be proud to be part of such a wonderful organization.

NSF India Scholarships from Year 2008 - 2017

NSF is seeking applications for scholarships in India for the academic year 2018-19. If you know someone in India, who can benefit from NSF scholarships, please request them to apply online at: https://www.northsouth.org/app6/Maintest.aspx

The announcement below contains the necessary information (the PDF document of the announcement is available at: https://www.northsouth.org/public/india/Doc/2018scholarshipflier.pdf
Please spread the word by forwarding the PDF document to students, college principals, college faculty, high school teachers, and non-profit organizations. Encourage them to spread the word by sharing this announcement with prospective students.

**NORTH SOUTH FOUNDATION**

**College Scholarship Announcement**

NSF invites you to apply, if

- You are amongst the top 10% in 10th and 12th and CET/JET ranks in your state
- AND
- You have secured admission to professional courses like Engineering, Medical, Dental, Polytechnic, Diploma in Agr, B.Sc Nursing, B.Sc (Agr), B.V.Sc etc. in a GOVERNMENT COLLEGE (including seats in Government Aided colleges) and do not receive other aid or scholarships.
- AND
- Your annual family income is less than Rs. 1,00,000

**How to apply**

- Use online application
- Last date for application Oct 31", 2018


Please forward this announcement to students, college principals, high school students, non-profit organizations, who could help spread the word.

Mr. Nageshwar Rao Kondapalli
NSF India Scholarships Lead
Hyderabad, India

Dr. Ganesh Dasari
NSF India Scholarships Coordinator
Houston, TX
I am, Mani Sai Kumar Puvvada a native of Narasaraopet, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh, South India, from a poor agricultural family. During my polytechnic course, I lost both my parents. With the help of my dad’s friends and my grandfather, I could complete my diploma and also could get lateral entry into second year B. Tech Electrical & Electronics Engineering in V.R Siddhartha Engineering College, Vijayawada in 2015-16. After reviewing my academic credentials and knowing about my financial status my seniors suggested me to approach Sri Surapaneni Venkataratnamgaru for NSF Vijayawada chapter coordinator. I still remember his kind encouragement and cooperation in resolving all my doubts and clarifications to be one of NSF Scholarship recipient. The timely financial help from North South Foundation increased my self confidence and boosted the courage leading me to aspired academic goal. I thank everyone of the foundation from the bottom of my heart, as I am very happy to inform that I had my placement in Power Mech Projects Limited Company, Hyderabad as an Engineer Trainee with a CTC of Rs 2 lakhs per annum, in campus recruitment conducted in our college.

Instead of simply thanking all those who helped me in my endeavour, I assure that I shall contribute 2% of my life long income on philanthropic activities particularly in extending helping hand to needy children in the society. This act of NSF foundation is a big motivation and inspiration to many people. I wish this foundation will reach many candidates and TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A BETTER WORLD.

Thank you very much
Mani Sai Kumar Puvvada

NSF Chennai Chapter
Dr. S. P. Ramarathinam

LIVE YOUR DREAMS

The key to happiness
Lies only in your confidence.

Build our own kingdom
to be your own king.

Never shatter your dreams
spread it to all your bloodstreams.

Let the world blame
prove them you are a burning flame.

Never Live in Dreams
Rather Live your Dreams.
My Experience with the NSF Scholarship Program in Vijayawada Chapter

In 2013 upon my grandsons Akhil Meka and Nikhil Meka’s request to conduct English workshop (NSF APNA Youth Ambassador Program) in India, I first got involved with NSF. With Mr. Venkat Gade’s guidance, Akhil & Nikhil completed the workshop successfully. I accompanied my grandkids every day to school, got to see firsthand what NSF APNA Youth Program was and which inspired me to take up the role of India Chapter Coordinator. This workshop was conducted in Vijayawada & was very well received in the community.

In 2014 NSF Vijayawada chapter was formed. The foremost challenge was to spread the awareness of NSF scholarship program among students. I handed out pamphlets to students & put those on the college bulletin boards. Accompanied by my wife, went to local education college summits and spoke about scholarships given out by NSF to eligible students entering Engineering, Medicine & Polytechnic. Being a pro active member of Lions club, was able to spread this awareness beyond Vijayawada.

In year 2014, NSF made it mandatory that scholarship applications should be submitted via online. The next challenge was enforcing the students to apply online. Initially myself along with few Lions club members entered these applications in online which were sent via postal. Then I started training students how to submit the application online.

After these issues were resolved, I would then inform the students. Often times I would let students from neighboring villages to stop by home, so that they could fill the application online. The third step is to identify the eligible students after the application deadline passed. I would initially scan all the applications & would inform US liaison Srilata & Akhil would then rescan the eligible applications. If any documents were missing, I would reach out to the students & remind them to send the needed documents.

During 2014 & 2015, interviews were conducted at our residence to meet the local eligible students. Akhil would then prepare final documentation and send out the list to both India & US National Coordinators. Every year Scholarship award program was arranged at our residence. Apart from this, I had been coordinating APNA Youth Ambassador Program with Mr. Venkat Gade in Vijayawada. I also had the opportunity to telecast each scholarship award program in local TV channel.

Invitations were sent out to the various journalists prior to the award ceremony. These award programs are published in local newspapers.

Below are the statistics of Vijayawada chapter for the fiscal years
- **2014-2015**: 10 new scholarships
- **2015-2016**: 10 renewals & 21 new scholarships
- **2016-2017**: 21 renewals & 56 new scholarships
- **2017-2018**: 66 renewals & 217 new scholarships

This year I again had the privilege to meet the founder of NSF Dr. Ratnam Chitturi & he presided over Vijayawada chapter scholarships program. I am very glad that I got involved with NSF. It is very fulfilling & fills me up with satisfaction to see that through NSF I am able to help so many students.

Ln Surapaneni Venkata Ratnam
First and foremost, I would like to thank the North South Foundation for conducting these contests every single year. The dedication of the entire team is the main reason that children around America have the opportunity to compete in these competitions, which are a stepping stone to higher levels. NSF has played a huge role in my spelling bee career, and it also helped many other spellers; in fact, 19 of the 41 finalists, 10 of the 16 prime-time finalists, and the entire top 6 at the 2018 Scripps National Spelling Bee were all NSF children. This just shows how instrumental NSF is to spellers’ careers, and all of it is for a good cause.

I first started competing in NSF contests in 2012, and have been doing it ever since. From 2012-14, I competed in the Bloomington, IL chapter, and then in 2015 and 2016, I competed in the Peoria, IL chapter, and I moved to Dallas and competed in the contests in 2017 and 2018. Throughout the time I was in NSF, I picked up valuable lessons, such as being able to work hard, persevere, stay calm under pressure, etc. These will be important in the long run.

To win the Scripps National Spelling Bee, you need talent, interest, determation, hard work, and definitely a little bit of luck. With NSF, I learned that I had a talent for spelling and I had a passion for words. This made me continue competing in spelling bees and broadening my knowledge of words. But I never had a fixed goal until after the 2017 Scripps National Spelling Bee, where I knew that I had to work very hard to achieve my dream of being the champion. I worked hard and was determined to lift the trophy, and thanks to my coach, my parents, and God, I was able to clinch the championship.

Failures were key in my success. Failures were the only way I would learn. No one will ever win nationals if it is their first ever competition. I was never really successful in the NSF bees and also in the South Asian Spelling Bee. In NSF, I never made it to Phase 3 of the finals, from 2012-2017. The one that was especially agonizing was 2017, for the fact that I missed by 1 point. In SASB, I never made nationals in the 4 years I competed. Even in Scripps, in 2017, which was my first year of competing (I didn’t have a sponsor in IL), I got eliminated at the county level. In 2018, also, I got eliminated in county, getting 2nd in a long duel with Naysa Modi, the 2nd place finisher at nationals. She has one more year of eligibility left, so I’m sure she will make the most of it and be very well prepared. Anyway, back to the topic. Earlier, I wouldn’t have been able to even go to nationals. But Scripps introduced a new program called RSVBee, which is basically for those without sponsors or for those who don’t win their regional. I went through to nationals with that program, and even though I couldn’t even win my county bee, I believed I had the capability to do very well in the competition. Although I didn’t prepare as well as I had hoped to, I (thankfully) ended up getting words I knew, which, in the end, is all that matters in a spelling bee.

My experiences at NSF and the spelling bee are a big step in life, and I know that these experiences will aid me in my goal of being an AI engineer. There will be obstacles, but I have been in situations like that and if I continue to persevere and work hard, everything will be just fine. NSF will continue to help kids achieve their dreams and helping them to “bee the best they can bee.” Thank you, NSF, and may you continue to prosper for many years to come.

Karthik Nemmani
2018 Scripps National Spelling Bee Champion
Rohit Palani  
Orlando, FL

Rohith Konduri  
Norfolk, VA

Ryan Karim  
Milford, CT

Sabhya Bansal  
Rochester, MN

Saharsh Bangaru  
Bridgewater, NJ

Saisha Sharma  
San Diego, CA

Saisurya Lakkimsetti  
Bixby, OK

Sanath Krishna  
Sunnyvale, CA

Sanjith Saikumar  
Holland, MI

Santhosh Arunkumar  
Fremont, CA

Sarayu Bhumula  
Edison, NJ

Savir Peri  
Syosset, NY

Shivaani Sivaraman  
Lincolnshire, IL

Shivika Sinha  
Princeton, NJ

Shourya Mogulothu  
Plainsboro, NJ

Shradha Rachamreddy  
San Jose, CA
Sriyagomatam
Irving, TX

Sudarshan Praveen
Apex, NC

Sumanyu Pinjala
Fairfield, CT

Sriniket Nuthalapati
Buffalo Grove, IL

Susheer Paladugu
Albuquerque, NM

Sydney Yerra
Ashburn, VA

Treesa Madakkattu
Eden Prairie, MN

Srivatsan Marimuthu
Acton, MA

Surabhi Jagdish
San Diego, CA

Tanay Vasavada
Fresno, CA

Vaibhav Deshmukh
Buffalo Grove, IL

Surya Kapu
South Jordan, UT

Vaishnavi Kothamasu
Sandy, UT

Varun Chiravuri
Princeton, NJ

Surya Pochampally
Souderton, PA

Tara Rakesh
Florence, KY
Once upon a time, there was a garden.

It was immense, dynamic, and bursting with life, filled with flowers and blossoms of all sort. It was overflowing with vivid colors and pigments, the flowers competing for your attention as their rich scarlets and indigos caught your eye.

Ivy cascaded over the occasional flowering tree, tendrils of leaves curling in every direction. The flowers bloomed harmoniously, encompassed by the lush, viridescent grass that carpeted the loamy terrain. There were clumps of vivacious daffodils thrusting their golden heads upward boldly, smatterings of zinnias that pleased the eye with their mesmerizing fuchsia petals.

Most importantly, no two flowers were the same. Each one was stunning in its own, unprecedented way, perpetually evolving. Some were domed, with a rounded apex, delicate, silky petals protruding from the center and forming an imperfect blossom. Others were flat, with sharp, symmetrical, even-hued leaves arranged uniformly around the circular crest, radiating from it like sunbeams or prongs of a wheel. Whether they were irregular or impeccable, radial or tubular, multicolored or monochrome, they all had one thing in common: they were young, budding, and ready to grow.

The flowers all originated from diverse backgrounds, different seeds. The seeds were how the flowers came into being, their starting point. From there, they went in all different directions. Every flower began growing, as a sprout, in different soil, under varying conditions. Some thrived in thick, moist, springy earth, dark and soft to the touch, rich with all the nutrients that are necessary for the plant to grow. Others started out in rocky, rough land, with parched earth and sandy, clay-like terrain, with barely enough support to flourish. Some were provided with bucketfuls of luxurious sunlight and clean, pure water, and others merely had the barest bits of light, and they were forced to reach their roots deep down into the soil to find any trace of rainwater.

Wheresoever it was they began, their paths ultimately converged as they journeyed and progressed, discovering new things, until they all ended up in this garden. This singular garden, where all of them had excellent soil, all of them had nutrients- where all of them had equal chances at growth.

This garden was unique because it had no fence. It was uncontained, unrepressed; the flowers blossomed and spread as they pleased. It was always growing bigger, becoming a more significant garden as more bulbs were planted - the garden was always welcome to newcomers. Growth was encouraged, and every single flower grew and matured along the twisting and turning path they call life. As time passed, the garden continued to flourish and expand endlessly. As this growth took place, the flowers united, they became closer. They became intertwined, a family. They combined their growth, sharing their milestones and accomplishments as they ripened using the help and encouragement of each other. Though they all existed in the same garden, they were not competing to attain its resources. Contrarily, they worked together and helped each other reach their goals.

All of this was what made the garden elegant and realistic, a place where anything could develop and thrive as long as it desired to. Perhaps the most essential part of the garden, however, was the Gardener.

Without the Gardener, the garden would not exist. He toiled hard every day to water each and every plant, to treat it tenderly and give it the resources it required. The Gardener was the source of life - he supplied the first spark that led to an eruption of improvement, a firework of progress.

It only takes the first drop of water that is given to a flower by a kind soul to create a life-long series of experiences as the flower grows and matures. It only takes that first drop; the drop that is provided by none other than the Gardener.

NSF, thank you for being my Gardener; thank you for providing my Garden. You gave me the initial drop of water, the first trickle that led to a cascade.

The first time I went to an NSF competition, I was in first grade, just a seven-year-old with bright eyes and big dreams - I was merely a sproutling, barely budding. NSF was my first outside-school competition encounter, and I was in awe. I was drawn to it because it was a… community of such incredible, confident people and role models who supported each other, and I found myself wanting to be just like them. Being very inexperienced, I obviously didn’t win my first competition. That made me remarkably upset, and I vowed to try harder the next time. And that was how it started.

That one competition was the first trickle, and that trickle turned into a roar: it led me to compete in NSF every single year since then. This is my 7th year running. NSF has helped not just me, but a whole garden of young sprouts turn into experienced blossoms, growing and thriving like they should be.

NSF, you are my gardener, and I am certain that my experiences with you will aid me in getting to high places in life. Your garden is where I began my growth, and it is where I hope hundreds and thousands of others after me will continue to flourish together. Thank you.

Sanjana Bandi
Preparing for Spelling Bee is and will always be a family affair. Dhruv and I are preparing for our third NSF spelling bee (K, First, Second grade) this year. As an early reader, Dhruv has always been interested in reading non-fiction including encyclopedias and likes watching documentaries. I am always amazed at how much our learnings veer from the actual spellings or words, into a deeper knowledge journey where the roles of the student and teacher are reversed. A few anecdotes from our preparation sessions as we board our Spelling Train.

The first stop was Siren (Etymology: Greek. Definition: temptress and device making a warning sound). Siren is the Greek mythological Mermaid-like temptress that lured sailors to their death in Odysseus. However, my little one opened my mind to some interesting alternative contexts. Apparently, Sirenia is the word that describes the Order (in animal classification) to which manatees and dugongs (sea mammals) belong and that Siren is a genus that includes aquatic salamanders.

The next stop was Becquerel (Definition: a unit of measure of radioactivity). Dhruv had mastered the Periodic Table when he was 6 yrs. old, so I was already expecting to hear an interesting fact about this word. And he didn’t disappoint. I learnt that it is an eponym named after the inventor of Geiger counter, Henri Becquerel. “Not Henry with a y Amma, but with an i”, Dhruv chimes in!

Jugular, a word we would all have heard about in the context of the jugular vein. When we reached this word, my little teacher lectured me about the gular sac in Siamang monkeys and how they use it to call out territory. Apparently, Tortoises inflate their gular horn during domination fights as well. Both these are near the throat, which is what the word “gular” means, he explained.

The word January, the month, as Merriam Webster defines, is from Latin Januarius (mensis) ‘(month) of Janus’ in the Julian calendar after the Roman god who presided over doors and beginnings. The hidden gem of information that was offered to me, that Janus is a 2-headed God who gets to look back at the past and future, hence the metaphorical derivation for the first month of the calendar year.

Last but not the least, Humectant (Origin: Latin). We had not encountered this word during our preparation, but he received this during his NSF spelling bee nationals last year. He spelt it out to us after and explained that he had seen the word previously on a soap wrapper, knew its spelling from that observation. We both learnt a new word that day - Humectant is a chemical substance added to food/cosmetics to retain moisture.

As a proud Parent of an NSF Spelling bee contestent, I constantly remind myself, Spelling Bee is never just about the spellings or the word lists. It’s a science, geography, history, literature lesson – all rolled into one.

Veena Subramanian
(Parent of Dhruv Subramanian)
Friendship is Beautiful,
But very hard to possess.
No Matter Young or Old,
   It’s precious as gold.
It brings lot of pleasure,
To everyone in the world.
   When you feel down,
It lifts your spirits up.
Friendship is hard to get,
   But easy to lose.
True Friendship last forever!
   So, enjoy it while you can!!!

Brindha Ponvel
4th Grader, Pinebrook, NJ

Steps of Studying

Step One:
Set a goal
And remember the motto “Bee The Best You Can Bee,”
No goal is too small you see.

Step Two:
Read! Read! Read!
Remember to write down the important things
Then you’ll be soaring, high on your wings.

Step Three:
Check to see if you’ve reached your goal.
Don’t worry if you haven’t, you didn’t lose the bet
Because we’re not quite done yet.

Step Four:
Here’s a trick that I know
Teach! What you learn,
So that way the things in your brain will stand firm.

Ria Shah
Rising 5th Grader, Burlington, NC
Aarsha Shah
Bridgewater, NJ

Abha Krishnamoorthy
Hummelstown, PA

Abhijay Kodali
Flower Mound, TX

Abhilash Patel
Harriman, NY

Abhiram Kapaganty
Suwanee, GA

Advika Govindaraju
Bedford, NH

Agranya Ketha
Montville, NJ

Akshainie Kamma
Round Rock, TX

Akshar Yeccherla
Cary, NC

Akshita Balaji
Herndon, VA

Anand Shah
West Chester, PA

Ananya Dhanawade
Briarcliff Manor, NY

Ananya Gautam
Potomac, MD

Anish Tejomurtula
Palm Harbor, FL
Yagyesha Roy
Morrisville, NC

Yuktha Rayani
Wildwood, MO

Yuvan Ram
Hilliard, OH

Srirjun Hathwar
Virginia Beach, VA

Not Pictured
Aahana Palyada
Advait Patel
Siddharth Satish
Srimedha Kaligotla
Ajay Balaje
Deepak Balamurugan

Dhruv Bhardwaj
Dhanya Kodali
Subadhra Krishnan
Anushri Seshadri
Hephzibah Sujoe

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Roots (2k)  Vocabulary (15k)  Homonyms (2k)

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My Experience in the National Geographic Bee

“Lebanon has a population most similar to which South American country?” This was the final question I answered in the 2018 National Geographic Bee that took place this past May in Washington D.C. The answer? Paraguai. I was wrong. I had written Guyana as the answer to the winning question of this year’s National Geographic Bee. While I did not become the National Champion, I have gained so much life experience from participating in this nationwide competition.

My geography bee journey started in fourth grade when I participated in the National Geographic Bee competition that my elementary school organized. That decision in January of 2014 set me on a journey of many highs and lows over the years and now defines how I approach any competition.

While I did not study very much for this first competition, I happened to win my school’s geography bee and passed a qualifying test for the New Jersey State bee. I had no idea what I needed to know for the higher levels of the competition, so my mother called Coach Kumar Nandur of the geography coaching circle known as the Tampa Geobee group, to help me with my preparation. She had received an email in early 2014 advertising his annual geography bee retreat. I cannot stress how helpful he and his team of coaches and mentors have been to us on my Geography Bee journey ever since.

Later that year, at the 2014 NJ State Bee, I made it to the tiebreakers round but did not place in the Top Ten. Rather than quit, I decided that I would keep trying and later that year I signed up for the Senior Geography Bee through NSF. I had participated in NSF Science since I was seven, after we heard about this organization from a friend. But since it was my first time participating in this high level geography competition, I did not do very well. Despite this, I got a good understanding of how much more I had to learn. I came back to the state bee and NSF Nationals in 2015 and 2016, continuing under Coach Kumar’s mentorship. Although I immensely increased my efforts, the competition at the state level was still quite high and I again only made it to the tie-breaker round and did not make the Top Ten.

All of this changed in the summer of 2016, when I placed eighth at NSF National Finals. This finish greatly improved my confidence in my geography skills. The next April at the state level competition, I finally stood on the stage I had stared up at for three years. After quite a few more rounds, I placed second in New Jersey.

At this point, I wasn’t sure whether I should give up geography. I was proud of myself for finally making the Top Ten and doing as well as I did. Did I just want to leave it at this high point in the exploration of my interest in geography and focus on other interests? After much discussion and thought, I finally made another important decision- and that was to keep going. If I had decided to quit the National Geographic Bee then, I would not be where I am today.

The following year, I doubled my efforts at learning new facts, and won the 2018 New Jersey State Bee. This afforded me an opportunity to represent my school and state and attend the national level bee in Washington, D.C. this past May. I was unsure of how I would do, coming to this highest level of the competition for the first time. I prepared well, stayed positive, held confidence in myself and made the National Top Ten. I think that was the happiest day of my life. The finals went by in a blur. By the end, I was shaking hands with the National Champion, and I was the Runner-Up. What a run it has been!

As I reflect back on this journey, I owe a deep sense of gratitude to Coach Kumar Nandur & Coach Gayathri Ganesh (of the Tampa Geobee group) for helping me get to the National stage. My family also deserves thanks, for making many sacrifices so that I could pursue my dream. Additionally, I owe great thanks to my student mentors, Akhil Rekulapalli, the 2014 National Geographic Bee Champion, and Karan Menon and Shriya Yarlagadda, the 2015 National Geographic Bee Champion and Runner-Up, who prepared me before the final competition. Finally, I would not be here if it weren’t for the North South Foundation. Throughout this journey, I made friends who shared similar interests with me and this encouraged me to pursue my passion. The NSF competitions in whole have helped bolster my knowledge, experience, and confidence. Most of all, participating in NSF competitions has taught me that in the long run, hard work and perseverance will ALWAYS pay off.

Anoushka M. Buddhikot  
Runner-up  
2018 National Geographic Bee
I am a second generation Indian-American having grown up in the United States since age 6. When my children were born, I vowed that I would give them the same opportunities to better their academic, social, physical, and spiritual selves as my parents had done 30 years earlier. When a friend introduced our family to the North South Foundation when my eldest was in 2nd grade, I jumped on the opportunity and registered her right away. With only 4 weeks until the regional contest, we only signed up for 1 subject: science. I did not expect much, but wanted to explore the organization, the kind of exams that were given and to see how my daughter would do under the pressure of studying for a regional exam. The following few years we explored vocabulary, math, and geography exams too. What I found through this process is that while she excelled at all of her subjects in school, she found the exams, especially at the national level, challenging and was often left with the feeling of “not knowing the answer”.

As I reflected on this, I began to realize that “not knowing the answer” was a feeling I had often as an adult whether in professional or social settings. I also had a flashback to what it felt like in my first biology class as a freshman in college with 300+ students who also were just as interested in a science career and with a professor who had much higher expectations than what I experienced in high school classrooms. I decided that giving my daughter the experience of knowing that there are many other people who are as smart or smarter than her would be a very helpful one as she grew up. And as we have learned over the past 7 years, the process of bettering oneself through careful and disciplined study can have one accomplishing impossible results. In May, 2018, Anoushka finished 2nd in the nation at the 30th National Geographic Bee in Washington D.C. This event culminated after many years of both triumphs and failures, joy, tears, falls, brushing oneself off, and trying again and rising again as she competed in NSF, school, state and national level bees. The process is one that I would never change as it challenged me as a parent to check my own expectations of my child. I learned through this process that holding her only to the outcome that she should come home with a gold medal was not only short-sighted but it also hurt her inner drive to learn and better herself. I have since tried to be helpful with gentle encouragement and always asking her consent before registering her for a contest. I have come away with a much better understanding that as she grows into a young adult, my job is to be her biggest cheerleader, to help her remember her goals and show her how far she has come. I have come to believe that our role as parents is not to push our children to always “be #1” but rather to help them cultivate a positive mindset, seek continuous improvement, explore how much more they can be and encourage them to “be the best they can bee”. I have come to understand that this is in fact what is meant by good enough parenting. Nothing more, nothing less.

Aparna Kalbag, PhD
Mother of Anoushka Buddhikot,
2018 National Geographic Bee Runner-up
Aadith Prathinidhi
Buffalo Grove, IL

Aaditya Rane
Raleigh, NC

Aaruni Moudgal
Hopkinton, MA

Abhinav Acharyabhatta
Chattanooga, TN

Abhinav Aggarwal
Milpitas, CA

Abhinav Medi
Chalfont, PA

Abhiraam Girish
Fremont, CA

Adavya Chandrasekaran
Canton, MI

Aishvarya Prahalad
Atlanta, GA

Akash Vukoti
San Angelo, TX

Akilesh_Kandasamy
Miller Place, NY

Aniroodhan Rengaa
Dunlap, IL

Anish Raja
Cumming, GA

Anish Thota
Ashburn, VA
Within reach is a distant star,  
Just keep soaring.

Within reach is the nadir of an ocean,  
Just keep swimming.

Within reach is the apex of a mountain,  
Just keep climbing.

Within reach is the championship of a game,  
Just keep training.

Within reach is a clean and green earth,  
Just keep recycling and reusing.

Within reach is happiness,  
Just keep loving.

Within reach is everything,  
If you can just keep trying.

Vivinsha Veduru  
2nd Grader, Keller, Tx

Brain Quatrains

Your brain is a supercomputer  
Your brain controls everything you do  
Your brain is hard to tutor  
But it is all inside of you

Our Brain has Cerebrum for talking  
Our Brain has Cerebellum for walking  
Our Brain’s 100 billion neurons remain a mystery  
But my 100 billion neurons will one day make history

Definition of Genius

Albert Einstein
Smart, intelligent, thinking, writing, inventing,  
E=mc²

GENIUS

Mohita Chepeni  
(2nd Grader, Bedford, MA)
The most important quality of a competitor is their resilience. Even after a defeat, they need to keep on studying for their next competition. Many of my geography peers have taken breaks from geography after a setback, which you should not do if you want to succeed. This applies not only to geography but also to any field one wants to pursue. For example, I suffered a crushing defeat at the National Geography State Bee this year. However, I persevered and studied hard enough to secure a 5th rank in the International Geography Bee National Championships held in Atlanta a few months later. – Good Luck!

Ved Muthusamy
3rd in 2018 International Geography Bee World Championship
5th in NSF National Finals 2017 Geography Bee
5th in International Geography Bee Nationals 2018

What type of bagels fly?
A plain/plane bagel

What do you call damage caused by a duck?
Earth-quack

How do you know when it is raining cats and dogs?
When you step on a poodle

What’s a duck’s favorite snack?
Cheese and quackers

Why did the elementary school kid get a ladder?
To go to high school

What’s brown and sticky?
A stick

What is the 4th letter of the alphabet?
h-a-l-p-h

Why did the skeleton not cross the road?
It had no guts

Which president has the biggest family?
George Washington-Father of the country

What did the flag say to the other flag?
Nothing. It just waved

What do you call a scared cow?
A cow-ard

What does a lawyer get in his drinks?
Just ice or justice

Riya Suresh
3rd Grader, Irving, TX
Samru Preuitt  
Portland, OR

Satvik Pochiraju  
Lewis Center, OH

Sandhya Ganesh  
Palm Harbor, FL

Shreyash Goli  
Riverside, CA

Shreyas Rajagopal  
Cypress, TX

Shail Bhatmuley  
San Diego, CA

Shayan Pandit  
Sandy, UT

Shreyan Mitra  
Santa Clara, CA

Shreyas Chekuru  
Ashburn, VA

Shyam Sriram  
Getzville, NY

Sreehith Baruri  
West Des Moines, IA

Sujay Vadderaju  
Chesterfield, MO

Srinidhaya Vempati  
Newmilford, NJ

Soham Dihenia  
Naples, FL

Sujith Yeruva  
Westborough, MA

North South Foundation

59  North South Foundation
Sushant Lebaka
Somerset, NJ

Tanmay Naik
Denville, NJ

Tej Patel
Nashua, NH

Vaibhav Hariram
Apex, NC

Vaishali Prahalad
Atlanta, GA

Vansh Chimaladinne
Plainsboro, NJ

Varsha Mudaliar
Mays Landing, NJ

Ved Muthusamy
Northville, MI

Vedant Rathi
Lincolnshire, IL

Velan Thanasekar
Tallahassee, FL

Vihaan Choudhary
St. Louis, MO

Not Pictured
Sreehemant Atluri
Sreesragvee Atluri
Siddardh Budamagunta
Jishnu Nayak
Yash Kothari

Anika Kulkarni
Smaran Pasupulati
Ishaan Pusuluri
Vishnu Rejeesh
Srivatsav Thirumala
I did my first NSF geography competition in first grade and continued to do it for the next six years. Geography had fascinated me ever since I first found a map in my family’s dictionary. Now was a chance to put my geography skills to the test. I couldn’t help but think of what I could win by doing this competition, but the first time when I was in the Phase 1 room at nationals and took one glance at the test paper, I realized that I had no idea what many of these things were. I left from that first nationals dejected and not wanting to do this competition anymore. But my parents would continue to encourage me and I kept studying.

Next year at nationals, I ended up placing 3rd, far beyond my expectations, and I was immensely proud of myself. From that day on, I was motivated to continue studying, and reading many maps and atlases to learn as much as I could about the world. NSF had led me towards a path by which I could let my passion grow, for geography is a unique subject. It is intrinsically linked to many other disciplines, such as history and politics. Thus, I had discovered my passion for history as well.

NSF enabled me to do well in National History Bee, ultimately culminating in me winning the 8th grade division of the National History Bee in 2016. I continued to do buzzer-based history and geography competitions at the high school level and this year I won the National History Bee and US History Bee national championships in JV division. But more importantly, NSF exposed me to a whole community of other kids who were interested in the same academic fields that I was. I met kids from out-of-state that I otherwise would never have met. We were all united in our passion for learning.

NSF is a truly an inspiring organization. I would not be where I am now if it weren’t for the experiences NSF afforded me, to learn history and geography to a deep level and gain vast knowledge about the world we are in. Nowadays, I help out with competitions at the local NSF chapter, and hope to continue to do so. That way, I can give back to the organization that helped me grow.

Govind Prabhakar
US History / National History Bee JV Champion

Govind Prabhakar’s Mom
2018 US History/National History Champion JV

In summer of 2005, my husband’s sister and family visited us from Washington DC. They came to Chicago because their kids were participating in NSF National finals at Northwestern University. I went to watch the competition with them. After I saw the competitions, I started dreaming about my son Govind, 3 yr. old at the time, competing in NSF competitions. I started doing research about NSF and what they do. I got fascinated by what the organization stand for – helping talented students in India, who need financial help to attend college; and also, promote educational excellence among Indian American kids in the US.

I had been browsing the US contests page on the NSF website to understand the contests that NSF conduct. When Govind was in kindergarten, I reached out to the local chapter coordinator to see if he can participate in the Spelling Bee. He encouraged me to have Govind participate. So, I signed him up. The chapter coordinator also explained to me that NSF is a completely volunteer run organization and invited me to volunteer and I signed up to volunteer as well. Since then, I had been volunteering at regional contests every year.

Govind liked the Spelling Bee which encouraged me to give him the opportunity to participate in other contests next year and years to come. We gave him the opportunity to explore all the different contests. He was able to participate in nationals for several years and was able to achieve top awards multiple times. This also led him to success at the National GeoBee. After having him participate in National History Bee, we learned that history is really his passion. Since then he had been participating in National History Bee & Bowl every year and had been the national champion of middle school history bee, 8th grade division in 2016 and the national champion of junior varsity history bee in 2018. NSF had been the first step in budding him for these successes. He now understands the world and the culture better. It also helps him in quizbowl which is pretty popular in high school. History Bee is a competition that is there at high school level also. As parents, we can expose our kids to different opportunities; they will find out what they really like. When they really like something, they will put in the effort to become good at it.

NSF provides a unique avenue for kids to explore different contests and discover their passion and area of strength. Another great benefit is, they get to meet kids who have similar interests and they become friends with them. As parents, we get to meet other parents and get to share ideas/tips each other.

Sindhu Nair
Govind Prabhakar’s Mom
2018 US History/National History Champion JV
I

n the National Finals of the 2012 National Geographic Bee (NGB), Former President Barack Obama emphasized the value of geography: “The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It’s about understanding the complexity of our world (and) using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together.” All of us who work hard studying geography carry a moral obligation to apply our knowledge to make the world a better place.

Ever since I won the National Geographic Bee in 2010, I have always been thinking about how I can apply my skills most effectively to help as many people as possible. Years passed, and I continued to grow my analytical skills while maintaining my interest in geography. Then, one day in December 2015, I was traveling through rural South India and I observed a funeral procession: a small farmer had committed suicide. Due to the failed monsoon, he did not have enough water for his crops and he was unable to make his ends meet. Running out of other options, he took his own life. It was only then that I came to realize how big of an issue farmer suicides are in India.

I decided I had to apply my knowledge in geography to help these farmers. When drought strikes it is always the farmer who suffers first! Why is this still the case in the 21st Century? This lead me to create ConserWater, a tool that can help farmers to grow more healthy plants with less resources. ConserWater uses satellites, weather, topography, and other real-time data along with proprietary AI technology to help farmers accurately determine the inputs they need for their farm in a cost-effective and scalable manner. There is no required ground hardware component, but ConserWater is still able to achieve similar results to having soil sensors. Farmers can reduce their irrigation by 30% or more using ConserWater, and in India, we have seen the potential for farmers to reduce their water use by as much as 50%!

However, it is barely enough to just create a new technology – the real hard work lies in bringing it to the masses and seeing it truly change people’s lives. Over the past few years, I have been applying my geography knowledge to bring ConserWater to farmers worldwide. Today, ConserWater is supported in several countries, and we have active efforts to reach farmers all over the world. My long-term vision for ConserWater is to reach almost every single farmer worldwide. ConserWater has been designed to capitalize on the growth of smartphone users, so that it truly has the potential to reach every single farmer. The vast majority of farmers lack any access to precision agriculture tools, and ConserWater is positioning itself to expand the wonderful capabilities of these tools to the whole world.

Helping farmers is just one way that geography can be applied to solve real-world problems. I challenge all of you to think of ways you can make a true impact on the world! NSF is a unique organization that not only spreads knowledge through competitions but is also a prominent service organization. All of you can use NSF as your jumping platform: expand your horizons with the knowledge you gain, and then apply that knowledge to change the world!
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Deboshri Kanjilal
9th Grader, Olathe, Kansas
Across:

4. One must try hard to make it (6)
6. School subject involving numbers (4)
10. Einstein’s field (7)
11. Encouraging Excellence in Education (5,5,10)
12. Art of writing (5,7)
14. Victor to point to target (6)
15. Contribution to cause (8)
16. Study of Earth’s feature (9)

Down:

1. Contestants (12)
2. Competition (7)
3. Thesaurus (10)
5. Art of Speaking (6,8)
6. Fire with Enthusiasm (8)
7. Reading out the charming letters (8)
8. Industries (9)
9. Student awards (12)
13. Personal Computer, Personal Support with it (5)

Answers:

Across:


Down:


Each day and night
Sounds never sleep
Screeching, squawking, and roaring
In the dense green shrubbery
And many magnificent clumps of trees
That match the peak of the sky
It is a forest
Every single creature
Sings along
To nature’s melodious music
Like an ensemble
With each person singing
As loud as can be
But, there’s a variety
Of many different hidden dangers
Flapping, crawling, and snapping
From small capuchin monkeys
To long, black caimans
To creeping jaguars
Each one
More determined than the other
To catch their prey
But the forest never cares
If the creatures
Are good
Or bad
Accepting anyone
That comes in its path

Ronak Hunashimarad
5th Grade, Bridgewater, NJ
Math Bee
Level 1

Aadit Verma
South Windsor, CT

Aarav Ancha
Sugar Land, TX

Aarav Gaudana
Hooksett, NH

Aarna Pandey
Breinigsville, PA

Aarush Kavuda
Ashburn, VA

Aarush Yaksh
Austin, TX

Aayan Parikh
Menomonee Falls, WI

Abhinav Nambi
Sugarland, TX

Abhiram Donepudi
Austin, TX

Aditi Sail
Plainsboro, NJ

Aditya Jain
Laramie, WY

Aditya Kalisetty
Plano, TX

Aditya Tangella
Brighton, MA

Advaith Namasivayam
Omaha, NE
Vivinsha Veduru
Keller, TX

Yookta Pandit
San Ramon, CA

Not Pictured
Maithli Agarwal
Sarvesh Amatya
Rishab Anand
Abantika Nag
Nihar Challa
Aryaa Dash
Avik Dash
Atharv Gaddam
Yash Jaju

Avni Kotharkar
Aishwaria Reddy Reddy
Sonum Shah
Krishnapriya Una
Varennya Kale
Veda Ramachander
Thaman Vuppala
Krisha Vyasa

Vihaan Parikh
3rd Grade, Santa Clara, CA
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Math Bee
Level 2

Aanya Aggarwal
Los Altos, CA

Aarush Prasad
West Windsor, NJ

Aaryan Sumesh
Chantilly, VA

Abhay Bhaskar
Edison, NJ

Abhinav Kommana
Waukee, IA

Abhinav Medi
Chalfont, PA

Abraham Thomas
Schaumburg, IL

Abyudh Mukkavilli
Waukee, IA

Addhyan Saxena
Overland Park, KS

Adithya Sharma
Acton, MA

Advait Akella
Waukee, IA

Advait Mopuri
Fremont, CA
Balaadithya Muralitharan
Omaha, NE

Bhavin Dang
Phoenix, AZ

Charan Bala
Clarksville, MD

Charan Venkataswamy
Athens, PA

Dhruv Vallurupalli
Princeton, NJ

Dhruv Vemuri
Ashburn, VA

Divyansh Kumar
Rockville, MD

Eashaan Murthy
Coral Springs, FL

Ebadah Khan
Lexington, MA

Eesha Sagiraju
Bear, DE

Eeshan Anand
Middleton, WI

Eshwar Vatsal Sivaratri
Ashburn, VA

Govind Velamoor
Sharon, MA

Grisham Paimagam
Charlotte, NC

Hanish Mamidi
Cedar Park, TX

Harini Venkatesh
Plano, TX
Rehan Pagarkar
Morganville, NJ

Rushika Kada
Quincy, IL

Rijul Ashar
Monroe Township, NJ

Rishabh Kumaran
Herndon, VA

Rishabh Madabushi
Basking Ridge, NJ

Rishabh Mahale
Okemos, MI

Rishabh Shah
Lewis Center, OH

Rishi Gottimukkala
Morrisville, NC

Rishi Kamojjala
Las Vegas, NV

Rishika Jain
Mclean, VA

Rishitha Marri
Weston, FL

Rithik Gumpu
Plainsboro, NJ

Ritvik Ranjan
Marietta, GA

Riya Mehta
Edison, NJ

Rohan Goyal
Saratoga, CA

Rohan Kotla
Chantilly, VA
Sloka Vendra
Plainsboro, NJ

Sohan Nelakudity
Middlebury, CT

Sohil Rathi
San Jose, CA

Sriaditya Vaddadi
Westborough, MA

Srijith Abhyuday Satyanarayanan
Sunnyvale, CA

Srikar Pothuraju
Plainsboro, NJ

Suchir Ryali
Ellisville, MO

Sudar Meyyappan
Tyngsboro, MA

Suhaas Goluguri
Westborough, MA

Suhas Beeravelli
Dublin, OH

Suhrith Muvvala
Irvine, CA

Sukeerth Goly
Tallahassee, FL

Sumanas Maram
Omaha, NE

Suvam Konar
Westerville, OH

Tanav Prabhu
Milton, GA

Tej Patel
Nashua, NH
Vaishnavi Iyer
Shrewsbury, MA

Vedanti Joshi
Lincolnshire, IL

Veena Kailad
Kensington, MD

Vihaan Choudhary
St. Louis, MO

Vikram Goudar
Virginia Beach, VA

Vikram Sarkar
Stamford, CT

Vineet Saravanan
Rochester Hills, MI

Vishnu Mangipudi
Bellevue, WA

Vishrut Thoutam
Monroe Township, NJ

Vivan Chalasani
Chandler, AZ

Vivin Aggarwal
Edison, NJ

Yash Goudar
Irving, TX

Not Pictured

Aaroh Tak
Anshul Kollur
Arnav Gupta
Megan Sawant
Nikhil Kodali
Rushil Sengupta
Shaurya Bisht
Naomika Aithani
Rohan Anand
Vidwan Aryan
Amal Balachundhar
Ajay Balaje

Anish Bharadwaj
Nirmit Brahma
Parameshwar Chamarthi
Amogh Ganjikunta
Rishabh Goel
Shrutodhee Goswami
Arjun Grandhe
Dhruv Grandhe
Tarun Jaikumar
Praneel Jammalamadaka
Ajinkya Karnatki
Advik Kishore
Nihal Kondabrolu
Vibhu Konduru
Rohit Kota

Rohan Matta
Nikhil Nair
Rajas Nanda
Neil Parikh
Manu Prasad
Ishaan Pusuluri
Vishya Rao
Shajid Shaffi
Nirav Singhal
Vibhush Sivakumar
Arjun Subramanian
Tanay Thakore
Karan Verma
It was in 2009, when I was barely six years old and still in kindergarten, that we heard about NSF. My friend had registered for the NSF regional contests, and we decided to try it out, too. It was the deadline date and the only available center in New Jersey was Marlboro. So, I participated in spelling, vocabulary, and math at the Marlboro center. To my pleasant surprise, I won second place in spelling. That was when I realized I was good at spelling and decided to continue participating.

The next year, I participated in the same three contests again, this time placing in the top three in all of them. I won first place in spelling and second place in vocabulary and math. That year marked my first NSF milestone: making it to my first national finals, right in my home state of New Jersey. I made it to Phase 3 in spelling and was just one place away from the top 10! After that, I started focusing more seriously on spelling, determined to make it to the top 10 next time. Never did I know what I would achieve the next year!

The year 2011 marked the most impressive feat in my NSF journey. After winning first place in all four of my regional contests, I would go on to win first place in spelling, second in math, fifth in vocabulary, and tenth place in science at the finals. Even though I did not win so many awards all at once after that, I still had more achievements outside of NSF.

In third grade, I was old enough to participate in my regional spelling bee, but we needed to get my school to participate, which we successfully did. I won my class and school spelling bees and passed the semifinals of my regional spelling bee. I was the youngest finalist in my regional spelling bee. I was one step closer to participating in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, which I achieved the next year. I was one of the youngest spellers at the Scripps that year. I missed the semifinals by just one point! Unfortunately, I could not go back the next year because I placed second in my regional spelling bee.

In middle school, my county lost sponsorship for the Scripps National Spelling Bee. My parents tried hard to get our county included with the regional spelling bee, but in vain. I really hope interested students should not face this unfortunate situation and all students should be given an equal opportunity to participate in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. The inability to participate in the Scripps caused me to divert my attention from spelling to math, even though I continued to participate in NSF spelling bees. I started taking math classes in seventh grade and participated in Mathcounts and other math contests outside of school. I was on the Honor Roll for the AMC 8 last year.

Even though I am in high school now, I am still a part of NSF by participating, as well as volunteering, in contests. I really enjoyed being a pronouncer for the spelling and vocabulary bees at my regional center. I have always loved NSF and I still do now. NSF gave me a good start to reach the level of success I am at now and I am very happy about it. NSF helped me excel in various subjects and it was how I found out all my strengths. The thought of indirectly helping underprivileged children in India who excel academically, makes me even happier. I take this opportunity to personally and sincerely thank all the volunteers who are or were part of the NSF family for their selfless service. I can never ever think of concluding this article without remembering and paying reverential obeisance to the incredibly lofty services rendered by Dr. Chitturi. He will remain a role model for many of us. I am grateful to NSF for teaching me a lot and helping me achieve many of my goals. I feel really proud to be part of the NSF family.

Roshni Kainthan
Saipranav Kosuri
Cary, NC

Sameer Gabbita
Ashburn, VA

Sameer Komoravolu
Aurora, IL

Sahana Behera
Lexington, MA

Saihari Kota
Trumbull, CT

Sathvik Medapati
Parsippany, NJ

Sathvik Appana
Lexington, MA

Sathvik Yeleti
Suwanee, GA

Samhitha Yeleti
Suwanee, GA

Sejal Rathi
San Jose, CA

Sashi Kulatilaka
College Station, TX

Sharvani Vadlamani
South Brunswick, NJ

Shaurya Jadhav
Henderson, KY

Shishir Vargheese
Overland Park, KS

Shreya Mogulothu
Plainsboro, NJ

Shreev Goyal
Austin, TX

Sharvani Selvan
Weston, FL

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Almighty in disguise,
As she roams along the sea.

Who knows where she’ll go,
High or low,
She’ll never stop,
Always at the top,
She splashes her tail along the way,
Into the vast blue bay,
As she roams along the sea.

Arya Janardhanan
6th Grader, Hilliard, OH

What It Means To “Inspire It Forward!”

When I was in 2nd grade in 2017, I heard about NSF for the first time. I wasn’t sure what it meant then. As my parents and I started to find out more from another parent and the NSF website we got interested and I got very excited. Till that point, I had only heard about sports contests, but not about NSF regional academic contests. Learning is fun for me and I enjoy learning. I was very eager to find out more and was excited about the possibility to participate.

We didn’t have much time and had to quickly register as the deadlines were approaching. My parents registered me for 4 subjects that were offered in my area and grade level. I liked that I was getting to learn so many new things that otherwise I would not have learnt in spelling, vocabulary, Math and Science. The contests were fun and they kept me busy as I had to go from one test to the next. I also managed to make new friends and was quite surprised when at the end of all the contests they actually called out my name for 2nd and 3rd awards in two out of the four contests I participated!

As I was busy with school work, sports, and NSF I did not find time to get a haircut! So the following day my Dad took me to a new Men’s Hair Salon that just opened in our neighborhood. The lady who cut my hair was very nice and she asked me what all I do besides school, so I told her about NSF contests. She was happy for me and said she enjoyed talking to me. I thanked her for the nice haircut and we left.

This year 2018, I participated again in the regional NSF contests in 5 subjects and received 1st, 2nd and 3rd awards in 3 subjects. I was very happy that I received the 1st award in Science and will be going to NSF national contest in University of Maryland. My Dad took me for haircut to the same salon we had gone last time. At first, I did not recognize the lady who was giving me haircut however she recognized me from last year and was very happy and excited to see me! She asked how I was doing and I told her about my 1st place in Science.

I realized she too was excited and wanted to tell me something. She told me last year when I had described how fun it was learning, she decided to go back to school. She enrolled in Community College and works part time at hair salon. She is very happy and feels she made the best decision of her life to go back to school after years to continue in Science & Math her favorite subjects! Now I understand that excitement can be contagious and the true meaning of what it means to inspire it forward!

Arman Kazi
3rd Grader, Hershey, PA
An Educational Journey

At times, it can be hard to find an educational compass, to figure out what to pursue, which direction to go in. The North South Foundation can point you in the right direction: I participated in NSF competitions from 1st grade to 8th grade: spelling bee, science, math, vocabulary. Though I didn’t know it at the time, those seven years molded me into the scientist, competitor, thinker, and student that I am today.

Since then, I have qualified for the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) three times — I earned second place once and first place twice, including winning both the Best in Category award and the famed Intel Foundation Young Scientist Award (a $50,000 scholarship). I was one of only 50 US students selected for the legendary Research Science Institute at MIT, the most prestigious summer research program for high school students. At the Regeneron Science Talent Search, “the nation’s oldest and most prestigious science and mathematics competition for high school seniors,” I earned 9th place in the nation and another $50,000 scholarship.

NSF is a platform that provides opportunities. For me, starting from an early age, it provided the opportunity to expand my educational horizons. It taught me how to tackle a problem and solve it - both on the small scale, of individual questions in contests, and on the large scale, of learning material and figuring out how to face a competition. It taught me how to set a goal and work towards it, to persevere and continue despite the inevitable failures and the vicissitudes of competition. Through these experiences, I was not only able to expand my vocabulary, improve my mathematical skills, and increase my scientific knowledge, I was also able to cultivate a strong work ethic, discipline, and study habits. As I head off to MIT, I’m confident that these years of academic competition have prepared me well.

To young students and aspiring competitors just starting out on this journey: think of it not as a competition against other students, but a challenge to see how much you know and how much more you can learn. Push yourself and strive not just for excellence but to learn as much as you can. Knowledge, not just of a particular subject, but rather, knowing what you enjoy doing and how you learn best, is something that will help you throughout your years in school. Don’t be afraid to face the unknown. Don’t be afraid to fail. No matter the immediate outcome, you will be a better student because of it.

And from there, after gaining your bearings, you can embark on your own academic explorations.

Syamantak Payra

Growing Together: A Parent’s Perspective

Syamantak participated in his first NSF competition when he was in first grade. He was a precocious child and we quickly realized that Syamantak needed a lot more than the gifted & talented education program offered by our school district. He was like a sponge, soaking up information, asking questions and endlessly curious. His interests were varied and the NSF competitions seemed to offer the perfect platform for Syamantak to challenge himself.

These competitions were in a wide range of subject areas, separated by grade levels and were conducted in a friendly, non-judgmental environment. The spelling, math, science and vocabulary bees introduced Syamantak to new academic challenges. His successes at these competitions kept him excited and motivated and the occasional failures taught him humility and helped him realize that there was always room for improvement. These bees inculcated in Syamantak the habits of goal-setting and working hard. His enthusiasm and diligence made all the difference!

When our kids are young, as parents, we can gently nudge them in the direction of their strengths and provide them with an environment where they can flourish. We can help to figure out how they learn best, what motivates them and teach them to set realistic goals for themselves with progressive increments.

When he started high school, Syamantak sought out more challenging competitions based on his interests and passions. Years of participating in academic competitions helped him develop the skills needed to excel in the rigors of high school – juggling academics, extracurriculars, community service. Syamantak’s preparation for NSF spelling, vocabulary bees and the Scripps National Spelling Bee were partly instrumental in him getting perfect scores on both SAT and ACT! His critical thinking skills and resiliency helped him become an excellent researcher, which has led to him earning numerous international accolades. This May, Syamantak had the distinction of being selected as a 2018 US Presidential Scholar by the US Department of Education. Aside from his stellar accomplishments, we are so proud of the amazing young man Syamantak has grown into - kind, sincere, compassionate, always ready to lend a helping hand in every way.

It was no wonder to his teachers and principals, therefore, that he was accepted to all four colleges that he applied to: MIT, Stanford, Harvard and Caltech. It was a difficult choice, and after much deliberation Syamantak selected MIT, where he will be a freshman this fall.

To all NSF parents who want advice on how to help their children excel we suggest, inspire your students by introducing them to other role models they can look up to. Meeting someone their age (or slightly older) who has done what they aspire to achieve can be a great motivating factor. NSF national competitions are a great place to find such young scholastic stars. Remind them that to become future leaders they must first be good listeners and followers. And that when they work hard with focus and perseverance nothing is impossible.

Pramatha & Sanjukta Payra

Pra”

100 North South Foundation
You are like an eagle
Free and hopeful
But also like a mouse
Fearful and trapped

You are like a lion
Majestic and strong
But also like a pigeon
Quiet and peaceful

You are like a river
Gushing and roaring
But also like a lake
Still and breathing

Your heart is like a house
Only the things inside matter
Your eyes like a window
Into that forbidden house

But your mind is a human’s
Conflicted and lost
Hoping to find meaning in an
Otherwise empty place
Called reality

Khushi Gagrani
6th Grader, Lewis Center, OH

NSF Junior Science Bee has really changed the way I look at science. I used to think science was boring and hard but studying for NSF brought out the light in science for me. To be honest with you the main reason I wanted to get accepted into nationals was so that I could go to Maryland and enjoy the scenery. But then I realized how much this competition could help me in the future. Thanks to NSF I now understand how water is formed, why the sky is colorful during dawn and dusk, what is an atom, how electricity is generated, what is life, and much more. Thanks to NSF life and learning are bond for life.

Mahi Junnare
Austin, TX
The Bee: What It Means To Me

The first time I went to NSF Bees, I had no idea what they were, or how to prepare for them. It was also my first test outside of school. I thought, “Why do my parents want me to do this? I am pretty good at school work and I have a pretty solid foundation in overall general knowledge.” But, my parents insisted on me participating; they said it wouldn’t hurt to try. Come to think of it, I am so glad they did. Since I wasn’t prepared, I didn’t do well. But that didn’t crush my hopes. Instead, it opened my eyes to a whole new world. It showed me what competitions are and where I stand. This is how my Bee journey began at NSF.

The next year when I went to compete, I prepared minimally, but I did well. I was ranked in the Top 3 for Science, Geography, and Vocabulary Bees in the Regionals. This made me feel proud, motivated, and confident. It also made me realize what I am capable of. I was invited to the National Finals in Tampa, but I couldn’t go because of a pre-planned India trip. I felt proud to receive certificates and a trophy. So, I got interested in participating again next year.

This time, I studied harder due to my growing interest. My parents helped me find some material on the Internet. The NSF website references were super useful! On the day of the Regionals, I was both excited, and nervous. The day had come! During the tests, the time pressure was a bit overwhelming, but again I scored decently. I secured a place in the top 3. I was invited to the National Finals in Houston, Texas. I was very excited to visit a new place. When I saw the University of Houston, I was amazed. There were so many people, rooms, and buildings. I had tons and tons of fun and enjoyment. I learnt that competing nationally is a step above the regional contests, and it takes even more hard work, preparation, and tenacity. I enjoyed participating in the National Finals by talking to like-minded kids that were very serious about the competition. I met kids from all over America. That was a highlight of going to the Nationals and the best time of my NSF experience so far.

This year I am headed for the National Finals again. They are being held in my home state of Maryland and I am looking forward to participating.

NSF has impacted my life greatly by encouraging me to put forth my best effort. It also taught me to get used to coping with stress and time pressure. I realized that whether you win or not, you should stay focused, have a positive attitude, and you will have an incredible experience! I am proud to be a part of the NSF family!

Yash Pandit
Rising 6th Grader, Germantown, MD
Avinash Ayalasomayajula
Morrisplains, NJ

Ayan Shekhar
West Roxbury, MA

Balaadithya Muralitharan
Omaha, NE

Chegu Vijay Aashray
Redmond, WA

Chinmayee Yerraguntla
Fairfax, VA

Divya Sivakumar
Bothell, WA

Eshwar Venkataswamy
Athens, PA

Gautham Sanil
Cedar Park, TX

Harini Logan
San Antonio, TX

Isha Shrivastava
North Brunswick, NJ

Ishita Cumer
Johns Creek, GA

Ishya Bhavsar
Prairie Village, KS

Arul Moorthy
Collegeville, PA

Arushi Cumer
Johns Creek, GA

Eshaan Srintan
San Jose, CA

Harini Venkatesh
Plano, TX

Ishya Bhavsar
Prairie Village, KS
Rohan Singh
Ashburn, VA

Rut Patil
Mount Laurel, NJ

Saasthra Bojja
Bear, DE

Rijul Ashar
Monroe Township, NJ

Rohan Dalal
Johns Creek, GA

Rohan Patil
Mount Laurel, NJ

Saathvik Selvan
Weston, FL

Sharvaa Selvan
Weston, FL

Saasthra Bojja
Bear, DE

Saathvik Selvan
Weston, FL

Sachet Korada
Boyds, MD

Sharvani Vadlamani
South Brunswick, NJ

Samhitha Yeleti
Suwanee, GA

Sanjana Bandi
North Brunswick, NJ

Sashi Kulatilaka
College Station, TX

Sharabh Ojha
Morganville, NJ

Sharveshram Deviprasath
Lewisville, TX

Shreya Mogulothu
Plainsboro, NJ

Sahasrakshi Dasika
Tucson, AZ
Vedant Rathi  
Lincolnshire, IL

Veer Agarwal  
Farmington Hills, MI

Vinay Pendri  
Pittsford, NY

Vishwa Rakasi  
Reston, VA

Yash Pandit  
Germantown, MD

Yashas Mattur  
Hoffman Estates, IL

Yuvan Chali  
Frontenac, MO

Srivaran Hathwar  
Virginia Beach, VA

Not Pictured
Bhushan Mohanraj  
Siddharth Satish  
Mayuka Valluri  
Sahithi Atluri  
Akshat Bhati
Srikar Nelakuditi  
Aditya Shivaswamy  
Karthik Thallam  
Sai Pranav Thambalapalle
Sipping my iced coffee through the trademark green straw of Starbucks, I realize that this will soon be a thing of the past, something I could tell my kids in the future (you guys used plastic straws to drink things?). Earlier in July, Starbucks announced that it would eliminate single-use plastic straws by 2020. While this move has been praised internationally as a giant step forward for our planet—think the picture of the sea turtle with a plastic straw stuck up its nostril or the birds with stomachs full of plastic—plastic straws only account for a miniscule portion of all plastic that ends up harming wildlife and the new strawless-lid alternative is rumored to contain more plastic than a normal lid and straw. Though the actions of large multinational corporations do help, the real steps forward come from individuals and communities.

Ban Ki-Moon, a former Secretary-General of the United Nations, remarked that “we don’t have Plan B because there is no Planet B,” which aptly describes the situation we are faced with: the ability for us to support ourselves without disrupting the ecological balance now determines what life will be like for future generations. And thus, the “Sustainable Development Goals” (or SDGs) were adopted by the 193 countries United Nations General Assembly in 2015. The seventeen SDGs each cover a broad area of focus and outline what we must accomplish by 2030 to attain each goal.

Having participated in Model United Nations, I was familiar with the SDGs and understood how important they were for the world, but did it matter that much to me personally? I agree that everyone should have access to clean water, and that we should work towards affordable and clean energy, but how could I as a sixteen year old do anything about these global issues? Yes, the SDGs addressed urgent issues that could very well determine the future of humanity, but, to quote famous economist John Maynard Keynes, “in the long run, we’re all dead” anyways right? Besides, wasn’t all of this what the United Nations and its countries and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and major groups and other stakeholders (MGoS) working on? Why do they need us?

Through an email sent by Dr. Chitturi through North South Foundation, I was informed an opportunity to participate in the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (or HLPF) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City on behalf of FEZANA. Being the social science nerd I am and after speaking to Dr. Chitturi, I was encouraged to pursue it, as it would be a wonderful experience, if anything. I ended up being one of the eight people selected to attend the conference, along with the other participants—Armita Behboodi, Karl Desai, Sohrab Gheibi, Pari Khosraviani, Bijan Kavoosi, and Bita Kavoosi.

The experience was eye-opening to say the least. Many of the events took place in an enormous conference room and in that room I was surrounded by individuals from a variety of backgrounds and objectives. Speakers from different branches of the organizations discussed progress emphasized the importance of local participation. Local participation matters so much that implementing the SDGs is often referred to as “localizing the SDGs.” While the United Nations can create the SDGs and hold meetings to discuss them, the only way that progress can be attained is through the individuals who work towards them step by step, from their neighborhoods, communities, and cities eventually to a global platform.

This, for me, was the biggest takeaway from the HLPF. There is no point in creating an agenda for sustainability when we, as citizens of the world, do not care to implement it. All of these time-consuming conferences? Worthless, if nothing is to come from it. What the United Nations has achieved thus far did not come without the engagement of local individuals, who took a stand on the issue and ushered their communities along the difficult path of change. The potential of the individual has the influence that committing that action has on other individuals to follow suit. What may start as a single individual can soon transform into dozens and hundreds and even thousands of individuals.

There are so many things that can be done in this world right now. Look online, find an SDG that appeals to you, and do something about it. Intrigued by the second goal—zero hunger? Volunteer at a local soup kitchen, or donate food to charities. Or the sixth goal—clean water and sanitation? Maybe raise money for a water filter and send it to a community that needs it. Plus, there is plenty of room for innovation in all of the SDGs, so get creative. Maybe you can pioneer a new technology that provides affordable and clean energy—goal number seven.

Coming back to my iced coffee, I realize that we do not (and should not) need to wait for people at the top to make the environmentally-conscious decisions; we as individuals can start making those decisions and inspire change in others. We do not need to wait for Starbucks to phase out using plastic cups to start bringing our own. We do not need to wait for gasoline prices to soar before looking for ways to reduce gas emissions. We do not need to wait to receive monetary incentives to start reducing, reusing, and recycling what we can.

*Maybe, I thought to myself, from now on, I’ll bring my own tumbler to Starbucks. Small steps, right?*

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**Vaishnavi Krishnan**  
Past NSF Participant and Present NSF Volunteer
Hello friends! My name is Ahan Das Chowdhury, and I will talk to you about my first NSF Bee experience! For anyone out there, who wants to test their knowledge, I recommend taking the various contests at NSF. I will share with you why I think so.

So, that day when I walked inside the building, I was super nervous. My whole body shook, like I was on Neptune (well, I wasn’t really on Neptune, but you get the idea. I was a ticking time bomb!). I got inline for my tag, and I saw that there were so many contestants! I felt like the clock was up and I was going to explode! My dad calmed me down and reassured me that everything would be okay. I felt better, but still nervous. That’s an oxymoron, friends. I took a glance and caught a glimpse of someone familiar. Was it... Could it BEE... Yes! It was my school friend! Wait, I thought. My friends are my competitors? This will be tough. But I gotta focus. No friends during the test. This is some advice for you.

I got my tag and went to the math testing room. There were around 35 bees like me. I thought that we all were bees in a hive, trying to collect honey. Honey as in the test. The proctor handed out the papers. And I heard the 4 words I was dreading. “Your time starts now.”

Immediately looked down at the first question and the next and so on. And when I least expected it, I heard “Stop”. We had reached the end of the first section of the math test. Then the second test. Same thing....and done. It was over. The next day was the science test. I got home and studied extra hard. My mom asked me questions and I answered them. We did this from 3-6, and then from 7-9 in the evening. I recommend studying the syllabus over and over again, which I technically didn’t do myself, but you should. Now when I look back, I should’ve worked harder. Study in advance kids!

The next day, after my swimming lesson, we went straight to the testing area. I was less nervous, because I knew what it would be like. As you would expect, it was the same as the math test, all unknown questions, limited time and a truckload of nervousness. When I went home my dad showed me his Facebook page. I took a peek and saw that I had secured a spot in the top ten people. What a narrow escape! If I had got 1 more answer wrong, I would not be there. I wish I had studied harder.

Well that’s a wrap folks! This is my BEE experience. If you work hard, you can achieve a lot of stuff too. Hopefully you BEE-come inspired to take the test! Since I made it, I have no doubt you can as well, friends!

Ahan Das Chowdhury
4th Grader, Bellevue, WA

My First Time Competing In NSF Nationals!

I have been appearing for NSF exams since last year when I was in second grade. I qualified for Nationals in my first trial for three out of five subjects I appeared in Tampa Regionals – JGB, JVB and Junior Science. For Nationals at University of Houston, I registered for two – JGB and JVB. For Science Bee, we could not register in time. The entire journey of preparing and appearing for National Finals at University of Houston was quite exhilarating. For preparing in summer vacation, I first read books on my own and then later with my dad. While on my way to Houston from Tampa, I kept on revising words and meanings. I felt both nervous and excited. After a long flight, my dad and I checked in a luxurious hotel in downtown Houston the previous day. Going and checking in the previous day evening was quite exciting. On Saturday morning, we were in an auditorium where the JVB was being held. I was incredibly anxious. The words in the written test were easy at first but got harder gradually. I felt I did reasonably well. During the oral round, I was quite edgy but the experience was important. During especially JGB written round, I thought I did reasonably well. But, I was not selected for final round in both. I was quite disappointed but at the same time it was an honor to be competing with some of the best kids in the nation. While at University of Houston, in between the two competitions, I also attended sessions from past champions in Spelling Bee and Geography Bee on how to prepare for these national competitions. I enjoyed the awards ceremony as well. I had so much fun and learned many interesting facts. On my way back from Houston, I felt inspired to work harder in everything I do. The week after, I felt real pride in narrating my unforgettable experience of participating in NSF National Finals in my school. I proudly put on the NSF T-shirt to my school. By far, going to Houston and appearing for NSF Finals was my best experience.

Dev Shah
3rd Grader, Largo, FL
Top Colleges Attended by Top Three Ranks at National Finals

California Institute of Technology  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Case Western Reserve University  
Columbia University  
Dartmouth College  
Duke University  
George Washington University  
Georgetown University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Harvard University  
Johns Hopkins University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
New York University  
Northwestern University  
Penn State University  
Princeton University  
Stanford University  
Texas A & M University  
Thomas Jefferson University  
University of California- Berkeley  
University of Chicago  
University of Illinois  
University of Michigan  
University of Pennsylvania  
Yale University

Not Pictured:
Deepti Aggarwal  
Tiberius Arulkumaran  
Mehak Banga  
Anmol Bhatia  
Purvansh Bhatia  
Srilalitha Jyosyula  
Harvik Kolla  
Smaran Pasupulati  
Preethika Pavirala  
Shreyasri Perumalla  
Krithikaa Premnath  
Srisa Raj  
Tejas Varma Paka- lapati  
Advika Venkatesh  
Sohum Walavalkar  
Himani Yarlagadda
Cat looked up at the saffron painted sky. She continued walking through the sand and saw an old man in the distance. He seemed to be reaching down, picking something up and tossing it into the ocean. As Cat got closer, she realized that the man was picking up starfish. There were several of them lying across the sand.

“Whatcha doing?” Cat asked the old man, curiously. He looked up. “These starfish have been carried out by the high tide, and they need water. They are still a little moist, but they won’t be able to survive for much longer if they don’t reach the water in a little bit.”

Cat was puzzled. She stared at the uncountable number of starfish lying across the sand. There were so many!

“How are you going to throw all of them into the ocean? There are way too many starfish, and it’s not really making a difference by throwing a couple out every few seconds.”

The man looked up and smiled. “It does make a difference to one starfish. One starfish is one life that I am saving.”

---

**One Life**

Rayna Parikh
6th Grader, Andover, MA

---

**I Know How The Big Baby Feels**

Celebrating Maya Angelou

A small baby creeps on the floor like a mouse and dreamlessly sleeps while tranquil is the house and later its cries wake the tired spouse and the big baby sits quietly recollecting the memories.

Now comes the small baby bro Walking to the place we call home Although he was very slow Watching the small baby roam Wearing clothes full of rainbow And the big baby sits quietly Recollecting the memories.

The small baby learns how to eat First with something smooth Then with some lovely meat but it needs its mother’s words to soothe Experiencing its first time in a suite Enjoys its meaningful youth And the big baby sits quietly Recollecting the memories.

The small baby learns how to bike Imagining it had wings Later going on a hike Discovering amazing things Next, it makes a friend named Mike And goes to school learning about kings and knights And the big baby sits quietly Recollecting the memories.

Ikshitha Tippi
9th Grader, Louisville, KY
She sat at the table, sweating bullets. The timer droned on inside her ear, as if it was a part of her now. 10 seconds… 9...8...7...- She slammed the buzzer as hard as she could.

“The capital of the Dominican Republic is Punta Cana!” Her heart rate which had recently doubled started to return back to normal. Her hand remained still as she heaved a sigh of obvious relief. She anxiously waited for the points by her name to multiply. The proctor stood by holding captive her results.

As if to torture her, the proctor takes a long breath and straightens her papers incessantly before proceeding with the results. “I’m sorry, that is incorrect. The capital of the Dominican Republic is Santo Domingo. Unfortunately, this was the conclusive question. Therefore, the winner is, Monica! The girl hung her head in shame and sulked back to the lobby where her mother restlessly paced. The mother shoots a hopeful glance accompanied by a supporting smile, as her eyes asks the question her mouth doesn’t. Did you win? With a sullen glance of her own, the girl strode away with her footsteps echoing into the midst of the room.

Has this ever happened to you? Are you afraid it is? Even if the circumstances are different, a bee is pretty similar to the story above. The girl in the story lost, and sometimes this happens. The best way to increase your chance of winning is to never go in blind; prepare. The best way to prepare is to understand what it is you are doing. Gauge the situation. If you are participating in an essay bee, then there is a grace period for you to collect your thoughts and properly format them. If you are participating in a brain bee or any other timed bee, speed and accuracy are in play. NSF provides many practice options and speaking with former NSF competitors can give you an idea of what the competition will be like for you.

Participating in a bee is an exhilarating and a strenuous test of academics. And I think I have some ideas that will help fund NSF. NSF should hold domain specific presentations associated with each competition. For example, the brain bee is all about the brain and questions like “what is the purpose of the amygdala?”, so there should be a presentation from a neurologist or someone with advanced knowledge on the brain who can provide an interesting presentation. Incentives may include hints to some of the questions on the date of the competition.

I participated in a bee, and I think that I have the first hand experience and the actual feel of participating in a bee. I was in several essay and speech bees, where there is a grace period to collect your thoughts. Even so, while giving the speech and at the last moment, it’s really difficult to stay on track.

---

**The Girl’s Experience**

She sat at the table, sweating bullets. The timer droned on inside her ear, as if it was a part of her now. 10 seconds… 9...8...7...- She slammed the buzzer as hard as she could.

“The capital of the Dominican Republic is Punta Cana!” Her heart rate which had recently doubled started to return back to normal. Her hand remained still as she heaved a sigh of obvious relief. She anxiously waited for the points by her name to multiply. The proctor stood by holding captive her results.

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Has this ever happened to you? Are you afraid it is? Even if the circumstances are different, a bee is pretty similar to the story above. The girl in the story lost, and sometimes this happens. The best way to increase your chance of winning is to never go in blind; prepare. The best way to prepare is to understand what it is you are doing. Gauge the situation. If you are participating in an essay bee, then there is a grace period for you to collect your thoughts and properly format them. If you are participating in a brain bee or any other timed bee, speed and accuracy are in play. NSF provides many practice options and speaking with former NSF competitors can give you an idea of what the competition will be like for you.

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---

**NSF - “The Best you can BEE”**

A quiz or an important competition may seem quite scary, But at NSF, there’s no need to worry. Their contests are filled with education and knowledge galore, They make you think that hard work is something to be happy for!

Before NSF, I would stare at my worksheets and I would wonder what I would do, Because even though I could do it, I wanted some extra knowledge too! That was when my mother discovered this splendid site, And when she told me, I was filled with delight!

The first step that I took on my NSF journey, Was to choose the right bee for me! My mom knew immediately what it should be, And she chose Science Bee!

Every morning and every night, I would study with all my might. Many sources helped me, To learn more and grow as a learner with purpose, you see.

The day of the Regionals came really fast, And the days of studying had gone by and passed.

This was the moment I had prepared for, This was the day when I hoped to go far.

At the center where the contest was to start, They gave me the question paper and I answered with all my heart. After the timer ended, I turned in my questions for grading and I knew, That I had done the best I could do.

When it was awards time, I found I had won a prize! I had gotten first place! I could not believe my eyes! I was happy, but if you saw my face you could tell, Prize or not, I was excited that I had done well.

I went to the Nationals and I can still remember that experience, That helped me know that healthy competition makes sense. I also know that I will excel at school, Because NSF has given me a feeling that education’s cool!

I do hope you agree, Because there is none better practice for competitions than the NSF bee.

---

**Varsha Bharath** 8th Grader, Issaquah, WA

**Ishaana Vishwanath** 3rd Grader, Schaumburg, IL
Akhil Kondepudi is a rising senior who won the 2018 National Brain Bee. The following is a Bee Book Team member interview with him, chronicling his experiences with the competition and explaining what the Brain Bee actually is:

Bee Book Team Member: First of all, what is the Brain Bee?

Akhil: The Brain Bee is a competition that tests student on the field of neuroscience. It is commonly held in a written and oral format (similar to the NSF Finals Brain Bee), with most questions coming from Brain Facts or, less commonly, Neuroscience: Science of the Brain. So, kind of like a Spelling Bee, except about the brain and with an additional practical part (and obviously better).

Bee Book Team Member: Cool! How did you first learn about the Brain Bee?

Akhil: Coincidentally, I learned about this competition through NSF and participated in my first Brain Bee at the 2016 NSF Finals. I had to learn about the nervous system for another competition that year, so I thought this would be a great way to start preparing for it.

Bee Book Team Member: How did you prepare for regionals/nationals?

Akhil: Regional brain bees vary on what they cover: almost all the questions from my regionals came from the Brain Facts book, so I made sure I knew this book front and back. As for the national level (and some regional brain bees), I read through the neuroscience part of some biology textbooks and scoured Wikipedia and related links with Google. Remember that practice makes perfect, especially with the identification parts of the competitions. But most importantly, try to understand the logic behind each answer, identification, diagnosis, et cetera. Pure memorization can only get you so far.

Bee Book Team Member: Wow, sounds hard. Perhaps your experience might motivate me?

Akhil: Definitely! Brain Bee competitors have a passion for neuroscience just like you. I met and befriended a lot of intelligent, motivated students at both regionals and nationals who had common interests with me. Also, the format of the competition encompasses all aspects of neuroscience, so an interested student should be very excited to compete in one (like me, and hopefully you)! Lastly, Baltimore (the site of the National Brain Bee) is a great city, so that’s an additional perk.

Bee Book Team Member: Is there an International Brain Bee?

Akhil: Yes; I’m going to participate in the 2018 IBB in Berlin, Germany, this summer.

Bee Book Team Member: Best of Luck.

Akhil: Thank you
Senior Brain BEE

Abhinav Sattiraju
St Johns, FL

Adarsh Kongani
Orange, CT

Adhvika Arunkumar
Londonderry, NH

Aditi Chintapalli
Cherry Hill, NJ

Akshra Paimagam
Charlotte, NC

Ananya Kodali
Flower Mound, TX

Anirudh Venkatesh
Mechanicsburg, PA

Dwaritha Ramesh
Granby, CT

Gayathri Mannem
Chadds Ford, PA

Kartik Tyagi
Cary, NC

Keerthi Kongani
Orange, CT

Lipika Narisetti
Hilliard, OH

Mahathi Mangipudi
Bellevue, WA

Malavika Kumaran
St. Louis, MO
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City, State</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nikitha Sridhar</td>
<td>Auburn, AL</td>
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<td>Om Patil</td>
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<td>Pranav Pagadala</td>
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<td>Preethi Devarapalli</td>
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<td>Saloni Garg</td>
<td>Mays Landing, NJ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trisha Patnaik</td>
<td>Bolingbrook, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ujjayi Pamidigantam</td>
<td>North Brunswick, NJ</td>
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</tbody>
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**Not Pictured**

- Sraavya Anne
- Sree Prabhav Bandakavi
- Rishi Gabbita
- Akilesh Gaganam
- Anila Narayana
- Roshni Kainthan
- Shriya Koneru

- Deeya Pathak
- Navneet Suda
- Neha Palle
- Pranav Somesula
- Shouri Bochetty
- Sreeniketh Vogoti
- Sree Prabhav Bandakavi
Aadhavan Veerendra
Portsmouth, NH

Aarush Chavar
Birmingham, AL

Aayush Tadhani
Peachtree City, GA

Abhinav Muvva
Mechanicsburg, PA

Abhinav Nambi
Sugarland, TX

Addhyan Saxena
Overland Park, KS

Adithi Takalkar
Fort Lee, NJ

Aditya Jain
Laramie, WY

Adya Garg
Ashburn, VA

Akhil Jois
Carmel, IN

Akhil Tirumalaseti
Austin, TX

Alden Raymond
Folsom, CA

Ameya Kharade
Nashua, NH

Anika Malyavanatham
Hillsboro, OR
Shaun Iyer
Johns Creek, GA

Shivani Vivekanand
Sammamish, WA

Shlok Patil
Portland, OR

Sharmada Rajaram
Lexington, MA

Shaivi Moparthi
Sugar Land, TX

Shriyan Dhannode
Ashburn, VA

Smrithi Guddeti
Sugarland, TX

Siddharth Gowthaman
Arlington, VA

Srikruthi Kolanupaka
Irvine, CA

Srivarenya Vempati
Newmilford, NJ

Snithik Kollipara
Westford, MA

Suhaas Goluguri
Westborough, MA

Tahan Choudhury
Morrisville, NC

Tanish Das
Elkhorn, NE

North South Foundation
18 years ago, my parents came to America from India. I was born here, in America, and have lived here all my life. Ever since I was in second grade, my parents have been telling me that the academic standards in India were much higher compared to those in the town we live in. Earlier this year, I started to realize how important it was that I started stacking up achievements for college.

A few months later after this, my mother informed me about something called NSF. Apparently, a new chapter was being started in Columbus, Indiana, where I live. She told me that doing this would be a good experience to have, and a win would be an achievement - which could go into my college transcript. I agreed to participate in the competition.

Since it was the first time this was to be held in Columbus, the only two to be held were Math Bee and Spelling Bee. My parents registered me for both. After this, I was given the list...of 1,000 words! My parents got me printouts of the lists, but it was hard to study. I kept forgetting the words and not knowing the definitions. Sometimes my parents would “test” me by giving the word orally, and this turned out to be a bust too. Let me just say that their Indian accents did not help!

For a long time, I really didn’t like even hearing the word NSF. My parents would say, “Esha, instead of wasting time, go study for NSF!” I would grab my list and half-heartedly read the words. Sometimes, I wouldn’t even know where the paper was! One day, I was exploring the NSF website, when I had an idea. I took the online list and copied it to iBooks on my iPad. This way, I could study the words online, and using the Notes feature, I could study in a better way. Words that I thought were difficult could be highlighted, I could write little notes to myself, draw pictures to help me remember the words, and break them down into things I could remember.

I liked this way to study, and by the day of the competition, I had read through every word on the list. I wasn’t perfect, but it was better than nothing. At the competition, I was really nervous. First came the written spelling test. Then the orals, which went surprisingly well. I got first place in our Regional contest, as did my brother. I didn’t expect that my score was good enough to go to Nationals, but I didn’t know that then.

My 13th birthday soon came along and I had an amazing day. But later that same evening, my mom told me and my brother that both of us had been accepted into the NSF National competition. My brother started cheering while I started moaning. This news was the best gift of all, but a summer devoted to spelling? At least I wouldn’t get bored.

Esha Aras
8th Grader, Columbus, IN

Dr. S. P. Ramarathinam
NSF Chennai Chapter
Life In Poverty

In December 2016, we went on our annual trip to India. I was lucky to go there in winter, for if we went in summer, I would have melted! As soon I stepped out of the Chennai Airport, our first stop in India, I was welcomed by my aunt and grandfather, which was very exciting, and loud honks, beeps, and 90 degrees Fahrenheit of temperature, which was not so exciting. I was happy to get in the air-conditioned car, where cool gusts of air kissed my face. After some fun-filled days in Chennai, we headed toward our second stop, Bhubaneshwar, the capital of Odisha.

Bhubaneshwar is known for its handicrafts, and is called the City of Temples. However it is special to me because of the fun I have with my grandparents and cousins.

In Bhubaneswar, I kept grabbing my mom’s phone to check on the Amazon shipping status. “So happy that it came. It’s so cool!” I said. I was referring to my Christmas present back home in America, a Lego U-Wing from the star wars movie Rogue One. Even when I got a present, and even went to an ice cream parlor and ate ice cream, I still complained about the heat.

“Absolutely no appreciation for what you have, Ilesh,” said my mother.

“Okay,” I said.

Now, it was time to visit Little Twinkle Academy School. It is in a remote village about 200 km from Bhubaneshwar. This is a small school my mom had started to educate the poor children. We go every year to meet the children, and see their winter program called the Annual Function.

“Why do we have to go? I want to stay home and watch TV!” I grumbled.

My mom said nothing.

As we came closer to our destination, the roads became bumpier. I was tossed around in my seat, and dust flew in my face.

“I want to go on smooth roads!” I whined. “Why don’t they have smooth roads?”

As we entered the school, my mom said “They can’t afford it”.

“What?” I asked. My body was filling with curiosity like how water would fill a cup. “They can’t?”

“Correct,” said my mother. “This is what I was telling you about having no appreciation for what you have”.

When we arrived at the school, I noticed the paint peeling. The Structure was nice, like a vintage school, and with a statue of Ganesha. As I looked at the children, I noticed that they had torn clothes, and broken shoes.

My mom told me that 1 billion children live in poverty, and 22,000 children die every day due to poverty.

A tear rolled down my cheek. I finally realized that I truly was lucky and should be grateful for what I have, because these children did not even have food for breakfast, or have clean water to drink.

As we looked around the classrooms, I noticed that there was not a single garbage or recycling can. Being a huge garbage and recycling enthusiast, I told my mom about it.

“There are no garbage cans! Can we go get some so we can save the planet?”

“That is so thoughtful of you, Ilesh! Let’s go!” my mom replied.

We went a nearby store, and bought garbage bins for the school. These bins remain there to this day. I gave the class a lecture on recycling.

“They are good for the earth,” I said.

After that we went to see the school’s Annual Function. I was thrilled to watch the children perform. They sang patriotic songs, danced to music, and even enacted plays! It was then when I realized that it doesn’t matter whether you are rich or poor, a kid just wants to dance, enjoy, have fun and just be a kid.

As I sped away in the car on the dirt road, I gazed up at the stars, and realized I never had gratefulness until that day, and I should be grateful for what I have.

Ilesh Sundar
5th Grader, San Jose, CA
Rishi Chowdhury
Farmington Hills, MI

Rishi Gottimukkala
Morrisville, NC

Rishitha Marri
Weston, FL

Rithwick Lakshmanan
Bettendorf, IA

Rohan Bhosale
Carmel, IN

Rohan Reddy
Fremont, CA

Rohith Raghavan
Sharon, MA

Roshini Shivakumar
Weston, FL

Saathvik Gowda
Brookfield, WI

Saathvik Kamma
Katy, TX

Sahana Potu
Ellicott City, MD

Sai Lalitha Kodukula
Miami, FL

Samanyu Ganesh
Atlanta, GA

Sanjeev Baskar
Ellicott City, MD

Sanjith Krishnan
Burlington, MA

Shail Bhatmuley
San Diego, CA
### Not Pictured

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North South Foundation
My interest in geography began at the age of five when my parents bought me a big wall map. The first geography competition that I participated in was NSF Geography Bee. In 2013, I placed first in the NSF Regional competition, and ranked 17th in the NSF National competition. That encouraged me to start studying and working towards the National Geographic Bee. I was unable to participate in the competitions until 7th grade because I was out of the country. I had heard of the United States Geographic Olympiad in 7th grade, and I decided to try it out. I scored highest in the Middle School Division of USGO in 2018.

Unlike many other geography competitions, the United States Geography Olympiad is a written exam that emphasizes analysis and comprehension of geography facts, not just memorization. It includes written response, multiple choice and map round questions. While memorization of knowledge is required for the competition, it focuses on whether that knowledge was understood and if it can be taken into a real life context. Many questions focus on real-life problems such as, climate change, weather, and urbanization.

By participating in NSF, I met Coach Kumar and my peer group. I learnt a lot of information, made new friends, and participated in the USGO and National Geographic Bee. In my opinion, those who are interested in geography should participate in competitions not just to win, but also to learn and make new friends.

Srikrishna Darbha
2nd place 2018 International Geography Bee World Championship
US Geography Olympiad 8th Grade Champion
### NSF Children in National Level Major League Competitions

#### Scripps National Spelling Bee

2018
- Champion: Karthik Nemmani
- 2nd Place: Nayasa Modi
- 3rd Place: Abhijay Kodali
- 3rd Place: Jashun Paluru
- 5th Place: Navneeth Murali
- 6th Place: Sravanth Malla
- 10th Place: Anisha Rao
- 10th Place: Tara Singh
- 10th Place: Shruthika Padhy
- 10th Place: Rohan Raja

2017
- Champion: Ananya Vinay
- 2nd Place: Rohan Rajeev
- 3rd Place: Mira Dedhia
- 4th Place: Shourav Dasari
- 5th Place: Tejas Muthusamy
- 5th Place: Shrinidhi Gopal
- 6th Place: Nayasa Modi
- 6th Place: Shruthika Padhy
- 7th Place: Rohan Sachdev
- 7th Place: Sreeniketh Vogoti

2016
- Co-Champion: Jairam Hathwar
- Co-Champion: Nihar Janga
- 5th Place: Smrithi Upadhyayula
- 6th Place: Rutvik Gandhasri
- 7th Place: Sreeniketh Vogoti
- 10th Place: JashunPaluru
- 10th Place: Asha Jain
- 11th Place: Divya Aggarwal
- 11th Place: Shiv Dewan
- 11th Place: Shourav Dasari
- 15th Place: Lipika Narisetti

2015
- Co-Champion: Vanya Shivashankar
- Co-Champion: Gokul Venkatachalam
- 4th Place: Dev Jaiswal
- 4th Place: Siddharth Krishnakumar
- 7th Place: Tejas Muthusamy
- 9th Place: Siyona Mishra

2014
- Champion: Sriram Hathwar
- 3rd Place: Gokul Venkatachalam
- 4th Place: Ashwin Veeramani
- 8th Place: Neha Konakalla
- 8th Place: Tejas Muthusamy

2013
- Champion: Arvind Mahankali
- 3rd Place: Sriram J. Hathwar
- 5th Place: Vanya Shivashankar
- 5th Place: Vismaya J. Kharkar
- 7th Place: Chetan G. Reddy
- 11th Place: Nikitha Chandran

2012
- Champion: Snigdha Nandipati
- 2nd Place: Stuti Mishra
- 3rd Place: Arvind Mahankali

2011
- Champion: Sukanya Roy
- 3rd Place: Arvind Mahankali
- 6th Place: Dhiyya Senthil Mogan
- 6th Place: Sriram Hathwar

2010
- Champion: Anamika Veeramani
- 2nd Place: Shantanu Srivatsa

2009
- Champion: Kavya Shivashankar
- 2nd Place: Aishwarya Pastapur
- 5th Place: Ramya Auprem

#### National Geographic Bee

2018
- 2nd Place: Anoushka Buddhikot
- 3rd Place: Vishal Sareddy
- 4th Place: Gayatri Kaimal
- 4th Place: Ashwin Sivakumar
- 7th Place: Atreyaa Mallanna
- 8th Place: Nihar Mallana
- 8th Place: Saket Pochiraju

2017
- Champion: Pranay Varada
- 3rd Place: Veda Bhattaram
- 5th Place: Anish Susarla
- 7th Place: Ahilan Eraniyan
- 7th Place: Rohan Kanchana
- 10th Place: Abhinav Govindaraju

2016
- Champion: Rishi Nair
- 2nd Place: Saketh Jonnalagadda
- 5th Place: Rishi Kumar
- 6th Place: Pranay Varada
- 8th Place: Samanya Dixit

2015
- Champion: Karan Menon
- 2nd Place: Shriya Yarlagadda
- 5th Place: Abhinav Karthikeyan
- 6th Place: Tejas Badgujar

2014
- Champion: Akhil Rekulapelli
- 2nd Place: Ameya Mujumdar
- 4th Place: Pranit Nanda
- 9th Place: Krish Patel
- 10th Place: Asha Jain
2013
Champion: Sathwik Karnik
3rd place: Sanjeev Uppaluri
4th place: Akhil Rekulapelli
Others among top 10:
Pranit Nanda
Neha Middela
Harish Palani
Asha Jain

2012
2nd Place: Vansh Jain
3rd Place: Varun Mahadevan

2011
2nd Place: Nilai Sarda

2009
2nd Place: Arjun Kandaswamy
3rd Place: Shantan Krowidi
9th Place: Krish Patel
10th Place: Asha Jain

2013
Champion: Sathwik Karnik
3rd place: Sanjeev Uppaluri
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2011
2nd Place: Nilai Sarda

2009
2nd Place: Arjun Kandaswamy
3rd Place: Shantan Krowidi

Mathcounts
National Round

2018
17th Place: Rithvik Ganesh
19th Place: Atharva Pathak
33rd Place: Karthik Vedula
34th Place: Sanjula Pingali

2017
18th Place: Chinmay Krishna
23rd Place: Rahul Thomas
33rd Place: Vivek Chalasani
41th Place: Gopal Goel
50th Place: Abhinav Mhir Goel
52nd Place: Aditya Akula
53th Place: Kishore Rajesh

2016
17th Place: Ishika Shah
23rd Place: Neeyanth Kopparapu
25th Place: Rishi Verma

2015
19th Place: Ajit Kadaveru
27th Place: Ashwin Agnihotri

2014
Champion: Swapnil Garg
12th Place: Akshaj Kadaveru

2013
2nd place: Ashwin Sah
11th place: Akshaj Kadaveru
14th place: Swapnil Garg
15th place: Nikhil Reddy

2012
2nd place: Ashwin Sah
14th Place/1st Place Team:
Niket Gowravaram
21st Place/2nd Place Team:
Sarvasva Raghuvarshi

2011
3rd Place: Shyam Narayanan
(1st in Written Round)
9th Place: Dhruv Medarametla
10th Place: Niket Gowravaram

2010
2nd Place: Shyam Narayanan
20th Place: Nihal Gowravaram

International Geography Bee
Elementary School
(grade 1-6 )

2018
Champion: Rohan Ganeshan
2nd Place: Kaylan Patel
3rd Place: Omkar Gadewar
5th Place: Jishnu Nayak
6th Place: Sumukk Venkatesh
7th Place: Krishnan Shankar
8th Place: Vaibhav Hariram

2017
Champion: Satvik Tejas Pochiraju
2nd Place: Rishabh Wuppalapati
4th Place: Adria Kundu
5th Place: Kaylan Patel
6th Place: Sushant Lebaka
7th Place: Krishnan Shankar
8th Place: Siddharth Kamanna

International Geography Bee
World Championship
(Middle School Division)

2018
Champion: Saket Mohan Pochiraju
2nd Place: Srikrishna Darbha
3rd Place: Ved Muthusamy
International Geographic Bee
Junior Varsity Division

2018
Champion: Samanyu Dixit

US Geography Olympiad Middle School - 8th Grade

2018
Champion: Srikrishna Darbha

US Geography Olympiad Middle School - 7th Grade

2018
Champion: Siddardh Budamagunta

US Geography Olympiad Elementary School

2017
Champion: Siddharth Kamannavar

National History Bee
Middle School

2018
Champion: Rishabh Wuppalapati

2017
Champion: Arjun Nageswaran

2016
Champion: Govind Prabhakar

National History Bee Elementary School

2017
Champion: Siddharth Kamannavar

2014
Champion: Siddharth Kamannavar

US History/National History Bee
JV Division (HS)

2018
Champion: Govind Prabhakar

International Math Olympiad

2016
Champion: Ankan Bhattacharya
Champion: Ashwin Sah

2015
Champion: Shyam Narayanan

US Math Olympiad

2016
Champion: Ankan Bhattacharya
16th Place: Meghal Gupta
18th Place: Dhruv Medarametta
19th Place: Eshaan Nichani

Who wants to be a Mathematician

2016
Champion: Ankan Bhattacharya
2nd Place: Karthik Karnik

2012
Champion: Shyam Narayanan

White House Science Fair

2016
Sindhu Bala
Anurudh Ganesan
Deepika Kurup
Isha Shah
Maya Varma

National Science Bee
Elementary Division

2017
2nd Place: Yugeshwar Muralidhar

Science Olympiad

2017
Champion: Raksheet Kota

US Brain Bee

2018
Champion: Akhil Kondepudi
2nd Place: Hemanth Asirvatham
3rd place: Sehej Bindra

National Middle School
Science Bowl

2014
Champion: Abhijeet Sambangi
Champion: Snigdha Allaparthi

2012
3rd Place Team:
Abhinand Sivaprasad
Aditya Murali
Gokul Gowri
Suvansh Sanjeev
Tejas Bharadwaj

Science - You be the Chemist Challenge

2012
Champion: Bhagirath Mehta

Jeopardy Teen Tournament

2013
3rd place: Nilai Sarda
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### Math Bee Level 3

2017
1. Prathinav Merneedi, Buffalo Grove, IL
2. Pravalika Patalapattu, Centreville, VA
3. Tarun Kumar Marthswaran, Draper, UT
4. Aditya Akula, New Albany, OH
5. Chinmay Krishna, Overland Park, KS
6. Kartik Vedula, Tallahassee, FL
7. Aditya Sundaram, Apex, NC
8. Aditya Vargheese, Overland Park, KS
9. Arpit Ranasaria, Redmond, WA
10. Bharat Narayanasamy, San Jose, CA
11. Ishan Goel, Bloomfield Hills, MI
12. Rahul Thomas, Centennial, CO
13. Ram Potham, Buffalo Grove, IL
14. Srijari Ganesh, Novi, MI
15. Srinivasan Sathiamurthy, Lexington, MA
16. Roshni Padhi, Chicago, IL
17. Saaketh Vedantam, Pembroke Pines, FL
18. Sivabalan Muthupalaniappan, Northbrook, IL
19. Anusha Sahai, Verona, WI
20. Akshaj Kadaveru, Fairfax, VA
21. Shreyaa Raghavan, Sharon, MA
22. Shwetark Patel, Herndon, VA
23. Akshaj Kadaveru, Fairfax, VA
24. Aaditya Singh, Mclean, VA
25. Ank A Bhattacharya, Canton, MI
26. Akshaj Kadaveru, Fairfax, VA
27. Mayukha Vadari, Sammamish, WA
28. Shohini Stout, Lexington, MA
29. Saranesh Prembabu, San Ramon, CA
30. Abhinand Sivaprasad, Bellevue, WA
31. Nihal Gowravaram, Acton, MA
32. Vivek Miglani, Coral Springs, FL
33. Anshul Ramachandran, Cupertino, CA
34. Hirsh Jain, West Bloomfield, MI
35. Akhil Nistala, Novi, MI
36. Sohil Shah, Madison, WI
37. Anirudh Sakesh, Battle Creek, MI
38. Chanukya Mall, Northville, MI
39. Ajit Unnay, Princeton, NJ

### Junior Science Bee

2017
1. Vishnu Mangipudi, Bellevue, WA
2. Harini Venkatesh, Plano, TX
3. Saathvik Kanina, Katy, TX
4. Srinivas Vittal, Ontario, ON
5. Akshaj Chauhan, Arlington Heights, IL
6. Sathwik Reddouth, Ashburn, VA
7. Divya Naik, New Albany, OH
8. Siddarth Kasi, Windermere, FL
9. Om Duggineni, Herndon, VA
10. Suraj Parikh, Granite Bay, CA
11. Raghab Arun, Cary, NC
12. Atharva Pathak, Gainesville, FL
13. Sashank Ganapathiraju, Cary, NC
14. Pranav Chemudupaty, Pearland, TX
15. Naveen Makkati, Missouri City, TX
16. Vivek Vijayakumar, San Marcos, CA
17. Kanav Mittal, Sunnyvale, CA

### Senior Science Bee

2017
1. Tom George, Tucson, AZ
2. Omkar Arasalia, Gilbert, AZ
3. Risha Chakraborty, San Ramon, CA
4. Kanav Mittal, Sunnyvale, CA
5. Sidharth Addepalli, Palatine, IL
6. Risha Chakraborty, San Ramon, CA
7. Praneet Meekala, Shrewsbury, MA
8. Tom George, Tucson, AZ
9. Vaibhav Sharma, Oak Hill, VA
10. Pratham Soni, Troy, MI
11. Kayya Kopparapu, Oak Hill, VA
12. Abhishek Iyer, Boca Raton, FL
13. Aadhith Vittala, Chantilly, VA
14. Varun Jain, Alamo, CA
15. Kaushik Manichkanti, Chester Springs, PA
16. Shravan Ravishankar, Prospect, KY
17. Chittesh Thavaramani, Troy, MI
18. Suvansh Sanjeev, Bellevue, WA

### Intermediate Science Bee

2017
1. Chegu Vijay Aashray, Redmond, WA
2. Balaadithya Muralitharan, Omaha, NE
3. Tanishq Pauskar, Massillon, OH
4. Raghab Arun, Cary, NC
5. Adhirayan Kartheesaran, Eden Prairie, MN
6. Yuvan Chali, Frontenac, MO
7. Om Duggineni, Herndon, VA
8. Saipramav Kosuri, Cary, NC
9. Pujita Tangirala, Los Gatos, CA
10. Shirlin Kingston, Ames, IA
11. Soham Konar, Westerville, OH
12. Akshay Shyam, Plano, TX
13. Pratham Soni, Troy, MI
14. Vagul Mahadevan, Centreville, VA
15. Shyam Ravishankar, Prospect, KY
16. Sanath Govindarajan, Houston, TX
17. Advait Pilkhan, Fullerton, CA
18. Shivani Nellore, Prospect, KY

### Junior Geography Bee

2017
1. Aarush Tutku, Tucson, AZ
2. Karthik Panchangam, Montville, NJ
3. Anish Raja, Cumming, GA
4. Atrey Mallanna, Lexington, MA
5. Pranav Krishna Bharanidharan, Fair Oaks, CA
6. Samratt Rao, Ashburn, VA
7. Abhiram Kapaganti, Suwanee, GA
8. Vaibhav Hariram, Morrisville, NC
9. Ashmit Kumbala, Irving, TX
10. Pavan Venkatakrishnan, Louisville, KY
11. Bharath Ram, Naples, FL
12. Ashmit Kumbala, Irving, TX
13. Vishal Sareddy, Suwanee, GA
14. Sandhya Ganesh, Tampa, FL
15. Anirudh Bharadwaj, San Jose, CA
16. Siddharth Krishnakumar, Herndon, VA
17. Ronak Saluja, Roslindale, MA
18. Shriya Yarlagadda, Grand Blanc, MI
2017
1) Atreya Mallanna, Lexington, MA
2) Kaylan Patel, Windermere, FL
3) Govind Prabhakar, Deerfield, IL

2016
1) Neha Middela, Bloomfield Hills, MI
2) Asha Jain, Minocqua, WI
3) Mantra Dave, Normal, IL

2008
1) Anup Hiremath, Fremont, CA
2) Neha Middela, Bloomfield Hills, MI
3) Debolsha Ghosh, Solon, OH

Senior Geography Bee

2017
1) Atreya Mallanna, Lexington, MA
2) Kaylan Patel, Windermere, FL
3) Govind Prabhakar, Deerfield, IL

2016
1) Sudhan Chitgopkar, Cumming, GA
2) Nihal Charmani, Plano, TX
3) Anirudh Iyer, Shrewsbury, MA

2010
1) Pradyuta Padmanabhan, Chantilly, VA
2009
1) Vansh Jain, Minocqua, WI
2) Smitha Gundavajhala, Cupertino, CA
3) Omkar Shende, Troy, MI

Senior Public Speaking

2017
1) Anirudh Iyer, Shrewsbury, MA
2) Kartik Tyagi, Cary, NC
3) Avyay Surampalli, Aurora, IL

2016
1) Abhilash Samantapudi, Novi, MI
2) Keyur Shah, Shelton, CT
3) Sravya Tadepalli, Corvallis, OR

2010
1) Shubhro Saha, Avon, CT
2) Ishita Kala, Waterford, CT
3) Rishika Chugh, Edison, NJ

Senior Essay Writing

2017
1) Meghana Annambhotla, Southbury, CT
2) Anirudh Iyer, Shrewsbury, MA
3) Siddhant Puranik, Katy, TX

2016
1) Kevin Chacko, Valrico, FL
2) Alekya Vejendla, Katy, TX
3) Sameer Jain, Austin, TX

2015
1) Esha Thakkar, Cary, NC
2) Prianka Subrahmanyam, Novi, MI
3) Keyur Shah, Shelton, CT

2014
1) Nehal Vishwanath, Spring, TX
2) Mahati Vavilala, Novi, MI
3) Gunjan Gaur, Leawood, KS

2013
1) Urviya Iyer, Westborough, MA
2) Naraehi Bharadwaj, Plano, TX
3) Shrinidhi Thirumalai, Fremont, CA

2012
1) Sameer Kailasa, Delray Beach, FL
2) Sonia Samant, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
3) Abhishek Rao, Newark, DE

2011
1) Smitha Gundavajhala, Cupertino, CA
2) Venkat Rd Munukutla, Saratoga, CA
3) Ramya Aurooprema, San Jose, CA

2010
1) Aditya Kalluri, North Olmsted, OH
2) Akash Ganapati, Cary, NC
3) Shrinidhi Dawande, Naperville, IL

2009
1) Aditya Kalluri, North Olmsted, OH
2) Akash Ganapati, Cary, NC
3) Nithya Vijayakumar, Canton, MI
### North South Foundation

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<td>Vasavi Levendel</td>
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<td>Dinold Jeeva</td>
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<td>Bindhu Raja Lakshmi</td>
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</table>
False friends are words in two languages that look or sound alike but have drastically different meanings. Here are a few examples of false friends between English and other languages:

**English and German**
- Ankle and Enkel, meaning Grandchild
- Arm and Arm, meaning poor
- Craft and Kraft, meaning strength
- Eagle and Igel, meaning hedgehog

**English and Spanish**
- Basement and Basamento, meaning the base of a column
- Billion and Billón, meaning trillion
- Bizarre and Bizarro, meaning brave
- Delight and Delito, meaning crime

**English and French**
- Blessed and Blessé, meaning wounded
- Grape and Grappe, meaning a bunch
- Journey and Journée, meaning a day

**English and Italian**
- Bald and Baldo, meaning brave
- Dome and Dumo, meaning cathedral
- Factory and Fattoria, meaning farm
- Gross and Grosso, meaning large
- Gusto and Gusto, meaning taste

**English and Dutch**
- Bând and Band, meaning tube
- Belt and Belt, meaning to call
- Brave and Brave, meaning harmless
- Gave and Gave, meaning gift
- Libel and Libel, meaning dragonfly

**English and Portuguese**
- Grip and Gripe, meaning the flu
- Pasta and Pasta, meaning folder

Shashwat Patel
## 2018 Rank Scholarships

### Junior Spelling Bee
- **1st Rank**: $1000 | Hexco Academic
- **2nd Rank**: $500 | North South Foundation
- **3rd Rank**: $250 | North South Foundation

### Junior Vocabulary Bee
- **1st Rank**: $1000 | North South Foundation
- **2nd Rank**: $500 | North South Foundation
- **3rd Rank**: $250 | North South Foundation

### Math Bee Level 1
- **1st Rank**: $1000 | Dr. Krishnaiah Revuluri\(^1\)
- **2nd Rank**: $500 | Mathus Academy
- **3rd Rank**: $250 | North South Foundation

### Math Bee Level 2
- **1st Rank**: $1000 | Bansan Foundation\(^2\)
- **2nd Rank**: $500 | Mathus Academy
- **3rd Rank**: $250 | North South Foundation

### Math Bee Level 3
- **1st Rank**: $1000 | Sarode Foundation\(^3\)
- **2nd Rank**: $500 | Mathus Academy
- **3rd Rank**: $250 | North South Foundation

### Intermediate Science Bee
- **1st Rank**: $1000 | North South Foundation
- **2nd Rank**: $500 | North South Foundation
- **3rd Rank**: $250 | North South Foundation

### Junior Geography Bee
- **1st Rank**: $1000 | North South Foundation
- **2nd Rank**: $500 | North South Foundation
- **3rd Rank**: $250 | North South Foundation

### Senior Essay Writing Bee
- **1st Rank**: $1000 | North South Foundation
- **2nd Rank**: $500 | North South Foundation
- **3rd Rank**: $250 | North South Foundation

### Senior Spelling Bee
- **1st Rank**: $1000 | North South Foundation
- **2nd Rank**: $500 | North South Foundation
- **3rd Rank**: $250 | North South Foundation

### Intermediate Vocabulary Bee
- **1st Rank**: $1000 | North South Foundation
- **2nd Rank**: $500 | North South Foundation
- **3rd Rank**: $250 | North South Foundation

### Math Bee Level 3
- **1st Rank**: $1000 | Bansan Foundation\(^2\)
- **2nd Rank**: $500 | Mathus Academy
- **3rd Rank**: $250 | North South Foundation

### Junior Science Bee
- **1st Rank**: $1000 | North South Foundation
- **2nd Rank**: $500 | North South Foundation
- **3rd Rank**: $250 | North South Foundation

### Senior Science Bee
- **1st Rank**: $1000 | Dr. Vasanthi & Krishnan Gowri\(^4\)
- **2nd Rank**: $500 | North South Foundation
- **3rd Rank**: $250 | North South Foundation

### Senior Geography Bee
- **1st Rank**: $1000 | North South Foundation
- **2nd Rank**: $500 | North South Foundation
- **3rd Rank**: $250 | North South Foundation

### Senior Public Speaking Bee
- **1st Rank**: $1000 | Dr. Vasanthi & Krishnan Gowri\(^5\)
- **2nd Rank**: $500 | North South Foundation
- **3rd Rank**: $250 | North South Foundation

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1 Dr. Syamala Revuluri Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by Dr. Krishnaiah Revuluri
2 Dr. Sanjiv Modi
3 Dr. Sarode Pundaleeka
4 In memory of Prof. RM. Sethunarayanan
5 In memory of Prof. Thiru RM. Krishnan
2018 Perfect Scores in Regionals

Congratulations to these contestants at the regional competitions who attained perfect scores in their respective competitions. This is a fantastic achievement and one that should be recognized by the whole NSF community!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contestant &amp; Contest</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Regional Center</th>
<th>Contestant &amp; Contest</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sriniket Nuthalapati</td>
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<td>Prithvi Narayanan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Arushi Bagchi</td>
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</table>
The success of North South Foundation is completely due to the extraordinary efforts of its volunteers. North South Foundation solely relies on volunteers to conduct its educational programs, raising and distribution of funds for the needy students in India. Nothing in life equals the gift of service you can extend to help all the deserving children in reaching their maximum potential.

North South Foundation is very pleased to present the Distinguished Service Award to the following volunteers in 2018. The Distinguished Service Award is presented to those volunteers who unselfishly contribute their time towards the Foundation’s mission in helping children excel in education and values and helping bright children among the poorest of the poor go to college in India. These are volunteers who best exemplify the type of high quality public service that became the hallmark of the Foundation.

North South Foundation truly appreciates the dedication of these volunteers towards the goals of the foundation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
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Karthik Nemmani
Scripps National Spelling Bee Champion

Anoushka Buddhikot
National Geographic Bee Runner-up

Akhil Kondepudi
US Brain Bee Champion

Govind Prabhakar
US History Bee JV / National History Bee JV Champion

Samanyu Dixit
International Geography Bee JV Champion

Srikrishna Darbha
US Geography Olympiad, 8th Grade Champion

Siddardh Budamagunta
US Geography Olympiad, 7th Grade Champion

Rishabh Wuppalapati
National History Bee, 7th Grade Champion

NSF Children Won 8 Academic Super Bowls in 2018