

NSF Youth Ambassador: Vamsi Subraveti

I am fortunate to be part of NSF family and have been volunteering with NSF local chapter in Nashville, TN. When my family decided on our brief India trip, I decided to participate in APNA ambassador program. Once I got the program guidance, I contacted my uncle in India and started planning the workshop logistics. My uncle helped me to get in touch with the director of Central Public School in Guntur to discuss about the program. Even though this is a private school, most of the children in attendance are mostly from lower middle class families.

When I reached Guntur, I met the director of school in person and explained the main goals of NSF and how I can help the school children with the spelling workshop. The Director was very appreciative of the NSF organization and extended the help of English Teacher for this program. In consultation with the English teacher, we planned to conduct spelling workshop for fifth, sixth and seventh grade students. The school provided the auditorium with a projector. There were total 120 students, hence we decided to do two separate sessions every day, sixty kids per session. I discussed the lesson plan, general outline of the workshop, spelling completion details with the teacher. We discussed the details of the award ceremony with the head-master of the school.

On the first day of the workshop, my family accompanied me to the school. Both boys and girls were dressed in school uniform and are very eager to attend the session. I introduced myself and the goal of the workshop. The kids were very eager to learn and very curious to know about me. I started the presentation with basic rules and some pitfalls in English spelling as well as why it's important to them in their future. I was extra cautious to be slow and steady in presenting the material, so the kids can follow my instruction. I was very thankful for this chance to interact with kids that allowed me to with my country of origin. The students were very curious about my school asked me to give autographs.

Over the next few days, I taught the spelling and vocabulary principles through the presentation and multiple quizzes. The students really enjoyed these although they were a bit shy to answer at first. We all had fun seeing the correct answer as well as the reasoning behind it. It was interesting to note that a few teachers also attended the sessions on the second day. I provided the copies of the practice words for distribution to the students.

The students were very enthusiastic about learning about the spelling competition, and seemed very keen on doing well in the mock spelling bee given. The students prepared well, and were given the written phase of the spelling bee by the teachers. The teachers compiled the ranking and identified the top four performers in each grade as per the school policy.

The award ceremony was arranged to recognize the participants on the last day. We connected with Mr. Surapaneni Venkataratnam, who is the NSF chapter coordinator at Vijayawada and requested his presence at the award ceremony. He spoke to the children about the NSF organization and the scholarship program. I also spoke about APNA and how NSF is promoting academic excellence in India. The head-master, English teacher, school student representative and one student spoke about how appreciative they were about the program. Afterwards, we distributed participation certificate to each kid and prizes. The local media were present throughout the program.

I am very thankful to NSF for providing me this rewarding experience to advance my leadership ability. I appreciate Mr. Venkataratnam's willingness at the award ceremony and speaking to the local media. We discussed with Mr. Venkataratnam, the possibility of starting local NSF chapter at Guntur to promote NSF goals. Lastly, I thank my family to make the program possible.

Award Ceremony - Winners of the spelling bee



Kids with their participation certificates

