

Subject: Online Registration for the 2017 NSF Regional Contests

Dear Parent,

Note: This is a **must read** for parents to avoid issues, missing deadlines, and unnecessary stress.

Happy Diwali and New Year Greetings from North South Foundation! NSF is all run by volunteers. A new volunteer sign up program was developed last year. Please do sign up as a volunteer to improve, sustain and grow the organization. You can ignore this email if your children are not going to participate in the 2017 NSF Regional Contests, but please pass it on to your friends whose children could benefit by participating in NSF events.

If you have any questions or issues, you can open a support ticket from the Parents Function page on the top right. This is a new feature we developed to better serve you. Once you open a ticket, someone will respond to you within 3 days. You can get an answer sooner by using the Help Guide provided on the screen. From experience, we can tell you that a vast majority of the questions or issues can be resolved by simply going to the Help Guide.

The registration for the 2017 regional contests is now open.

NSF will be conducting regional contests for Indian-American children this year at more than 80 centers across US. These contests focus on the academic development of children starting from the 1st grade through High School level, enabling them to excel in their studies utilizing the full potential embodied in every child. NSF firmly believes that:

1. Every child is a winner.
2. There is nothing a child cannot do.
3. Even an ordinary child can do extraordinary things.
4. Nothing is too early to learn for a child.

The impact of NSF contests on children is evident from the fact that NSF kids have won an eight-year winning streak at the Scripps National Spelling Bee Championship, a five-year winning streak at the National Geographic Bee Championship, and a two-year winning streak at the International Math Olympiad. During the year 2016, they have won championships in five super bowl equivalents in Spelling, Geography, US Math Olympiad and International Math Olympiad; and also 5 super bowl equivalents in 2015. Further, they have also earned top ranks in Science Olympiad, Siemens and Intel Science competitions, Engineering fairs, Chemist Challenge, and US Brain Bee. Many Indian-American students admitted to top tier colleges such as Harvard, MIT, Princeton, Stanford, Yale and Columbia are also NSF kids.

Our focus on “Excellence in Education” early on in life has been instrumental in developing a winning attitude in kids and encouraging them to put their best efforts in everything they do. However, excellence is not accidental; parental involvement and participation are essential in nurturing the talents of children. To a large extent, students’ successes are also dependent on the commitments by parents. NSF provides a forum for parents to interact and become

aware of educational opportunities for children. As Thomas Edison has famously quoted, genius is one percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration.

This year NSF will be conducting regional contests in Spelling, Vocabulary, Math, Science, Geography, Brain Bee, Essay Writing, and Public Speaking over the weekends of March 18th/19th, April 8th/9th, and April 29th/30th. Coordinators in each center will be scheduling some or all the contests depending on the availability of venue and volunteers as well as the anticipated participation level in each contest. You can see the contests scheduled for your area at the following link: <http://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Regionals/calendar.aspx> (Some chapters may still be working on publishing the schedule.)

Let us first tell you, “What is new for 2017?”

1) Structured Learning Program / Study guides. We will have study guides for JSB, all levels of science, and MB1. To follow: SSB, MB2, MB3, JGB, SGB (parents need to come back periodically and click on Contest Status Link on the Parent Functions page to see updates). No study guides planned for VB, EW, PS.

2) Regional Brain Bee contests will be held at two levels: IBB (Intermediate for grades 6, 7, & 8) and SBB (Senior for grades 9, 10, & 11). This will be a pilot contest. Fee would be the same at \$35. Website will be updated shortly.

We would encourage you to register your children for all eligible contests available in your area. It would be beneficial for the child to participate in at least three contests emphasizing Language, Math & Science. Please register early so that your child will have ample time to prepare for the contests. We have provided contest rules and plenty of resources for preparation on our website. Some of the chapters will also be holding workshops in some subjects. Please attend these workshops with your child so that you can help your child in using the workshop materials for further study and preparation. NSF also offers online workshops in spelling, geography, math and science depending on the resources available. You will receive notification by email. These are similar to the onsite workshops, but are available to all children across the country.

Further, NSF also offers online coaching for Math, Geography, SAT/ACT, Science, and Universal Values. Coaching provides yet another channel for improving learning skills in selected areas through virtual classrooms, which open in September and run for 15 to 16 weeks. The classes run for 90 minutes to two hours a week depending on the course. SAT includes both English and Math, and is being offered since 2012. ACT is added new this year.

2017 National Finals will be held in Houston, TX at the University of Houston (UH) during August 12-13, 2017 at their main campus. Invitation to the National Finals is based on scores received at the regional contests. National cut-off scores will be determined for each level after completing contests at all centers.

Please note that NSF is all run by volunteers, and all net proceeds from contests, workshops, coaching and other fundraising efforts are earmarked for providing scholarships for bright children from poor families in India to attend college. Thus, your participation in these contests is helping a kid in India receive higher education. This year we are planning to

award 3,000 scholarships bringing the total scholarships awarded so far by NSF to over 20,000. This is a win-win program to help NRI children in the US, which in turn helps meritorious, but poor children in India as well.

Step by step instructions for registering for contests are provided below. We have also compiled a list of some important points to note based on registration experience in previous years. Please read the entire set of instructions and FAQs before attempting registration. If you still have a problem in registering, please open a Support Ticket on the top right hand side of the Parent Functions page.

Step by step instructions for registering for contests are available at the following link:
http://www.northsouth.org/public/uscontests/regionals/StepByStepInstructions_2017RegionalContests.pdf

Wish you and your children all the best. Thank you for your continued support to NSF.

Sincerely,

Dr. Raj Jayachandran, Ph.D.
On behalf of the NSF National Team

Important Points to Note before Registering

1. Please only use the latest Microsoft **Internet Explorer version**. Our volunteers DID NOT test with other browsers like Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome, and therefore, we are not able to provide help support. Also, please use only desktop or laptop with Windows software. We do not support other devices.

2. If you are unable to complete registration anytime, please send an email to nsfcontests@gmail.com NSF volunteers will make every effort to solve your problem within **3 days**.

3. **Do not try to enter as a new parent if you received an email directly from us.** Your record already exists. Duplicate records create a mess and havoc for us volunteers.

4. As in the past, your entry is through a login ID and password. This is the only way you can access the system. **If you forgot your password, you can get it from the login page.** Please keep the login ID and password in a safe place. Do not share with others. Many parents get into trouble as they do not store them for retrieval in a safe place.

5. All communications from NSF is done through your registered email address, which also acts as your login ID. If you want to change your e-mail address (login ID) or password, you can do it from the login page, profile page or from the Parent Functions page.

6. If you ever forget your login ID in the future, you can request for it from the login page. Like last year, we are requiring unique email IDs for both parents so that both email IDs receive our messages. If one becomes invalid for some reason, the other email ID will still receive our message. Never report spam since your email address will be put on a black list permanently by our email server vendor.

7. NSF offers a variety of contests including spelling, vocabulary, math, science, geography, essay writing, public speaking, and brain bee. Based on the availability of resources and participation, your chapter decides on a particular array of contests to be offered in your center. If your chapter does not offer a particular contest, but it is, however, offered in a neighboring center, you may be able to avail the opportunity by registering in the neighboring center as long as it is in your cluster and the system allows you.

Important: Some chapters are put into a cluster, if they are within driving distance. If you belong to a cluster, the system will show you all chapters where you can register. **Please read the chapter names and select the precise chapter where you would like your child to participate.** If your center is offering contests, but has not yet selected a date or venue, you can still register. Registration is **not** complete until you pay online. **Once you register and pay, refunds are not allowed for any reason.**

8. As an added benefit to the parents, there are 2 links on the parent function page: “[Change Center](#)” and “[Change Contest.](#)” Change Contest link allows you to change contests. You can only change contests that are priced same or lower. **You can change center or contest up to two weeks prior to the contest date at the original center or new center, whichever is earlier.** Two week lead time is needed to plan and execute the contests smoothly.

9. During registration, the system saves each page as you navigate. In case of an interruption for any reason, you do not have to re-enter the data that was already saved.

10. NSF activities are run by volunteers as NRI community events. We encourage both parents to volunteer for them. Even if you can spare one hour a week, it will make a big difference. Together, we can make things better and accomplish more in serving children, both in the US and India. Please

contact/send email to your chapter coordinator if you are interested in volunteering. You can also **sign up** for volunteering during registration.

11. Do not use the “Back” arrow or "Refresh" button to avoid losing data integrity. **Please review each page before continuing.** Please avoid registering in a rush to avoid mistakes.

a) **Parent information:** Please review and update data in all fields for you and your spouse (or other parent). Please make sure both parents have unique email ids (i.e. email ids need to be different for both parents). **You cannot proceed unless you provide profiles including unique email IDs for both parents.** Single parents are exempt from this requirement. Make certain that you belong to the right NSF chapter.

b) **Child information:** Please review and update data in all fields including hobbies and accomplishments for each child. **Make sure the date of birth is correct, and the grade and the name of school are up to date.** The grade should be as of **October 1**. Due to limited volunteer and venue resources, contests are limited to the children of Indian origin.

12. While helping your child excel through these contests, please consider helping an economically disadvantaged child go to college in India and donate generously. Your contribution is fully tax-deductible. **On the donation page, there is a suggested donation of \$250 to sponsor one child, which you are free to change.**

13. After completing registration and making payment, you will get a confirmation email, which you should keep for your records. Please read the confirmation email in full. You may want to bring a copy to the contest venue as evidence of your registration and payment.

14. Please review with your child NSF contest offerings, contest dates, contest location, rules, syllabus, preparation, educational resources and FAQ to make them better prepare. The link is:

<http://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Regionals/calendar.aspx?state=NE>

15. You might want to register for any workshops being offered in your chapters, and this can better prepare your child for the contests, and reduce any anxiety they might have. NSF also offers online workshops. Please watch for NSF emails.

16. Do not wait till the day of the registration deadline to register, to avoid any unforeseen issues, which might cause you to miss the deadline. Also in some chapters, registration may close early if the capacity is reached. So please register early. **Deadline is mid-night on the East Coast on the day of the deadline.**

Step-by-step Instructions for Registration:

For your benefit, NSF volunteers have made **YOUTUBE videos** on how to create a new parent login, how to register your child, how to download practice words and how to create volunteer login. You may watch the YouTube training video at this link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uyRfBF17Cs>

- (1) From www.northsouth.org, place your cursor on “**US LOGIN**” which appears on the top right hand side and click on “**Parent Login**” link.



- (2) Enter your login ID and password in the new login page. (If you forgot your password, you can get it from the login page.)

Sign On

E-Mail

Password

[Click here if you forgot your password / change password](#)

[Click here if you forgot login ID / email address for login is no longer valid](#)

[Click here if you are new to NSF](#)

- (3) Click on “[Register for Regional Contests](#)” and follow the prompts.

Parent Functions			File Support Ticket
Application	Main Option	Reports	Bulletin Board
Contests - Regional	Register for Regional Contests Change Center Change Contest Excel-a-thon	View Status for Regional Contests View Regional Scores	Step-by-step Instructions to register FAQ during Contest Registration How to make Your Child a Winner

- (4) First fill-in/update parent information; then click on “Continue”.
- (5) Update the volunteer information; then click on “Continue”.
- (6) Add and Update the child information such as grade/school/hobbies. You need to update for all children. Otherwise, the system will not show you the eligible contests.
- (7) Click on “[Choose Contest Details](#)” on the Child Information page.

Child Information

[Back to Main Page](#)

We must have latest information on your child(ren) including date of birth, place of birth, gender, grade, school, hobbies and achievements. So please click on Update link to verify and update information. Otherwise you may not be able to select Contests. Further, your child may get disqualified if the information is not accurate. The grade should be as of January 1st of the contest year.

Name of Child	School Name	Grade	Date Of Birth	Update
Firstname Lastname	Middle School	5	12/24/2000	Update

Please update the Child information for all the children, even if you are not planning to send all of them to NSF regional contests. Only when you update the grade, school and other data for all the children, then only the “Choose Contest Details” button will be active. If you update one child and not the other, the “Choose Contest Details” button will NOT be active.

- (8) System shows the list of children and eligible contests, click on “[Click here to register](#)”.

Child/Children Detailed Information

Name of Child	School Name	Grade	Eligible Contests	Stamford
Firstname Lastname	Middle School	5	Senior Spelling	Mar 31, 2012
			Intermediate Vocabulary	Mar 31, 2012
			Math Level 2	Mar 31, 2012

2/3rd of the Registration Fee is tax-deductible.

[Click here to Register](#)

- (9) Select all desired contests for each child; then click on “[Submit](#)”.

Eligible Contests for Firstname
Amount For Selected Contests 105

Check	Status	Contest	Chapter	Contest Date	Fee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Select	Senior Spelling	Stamford, CT	Mar 31, 2012 6:00 AM Reg. Deadline: 3/17/2012	\$35.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Select	Intermediate Vocabulary	Stamford, CT	Mar 31, 2012 6:00 AM Reg. Deadline: 3/17/2012	\$35.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Select	Math Level 2	Stamford, CT	Mar 31, 2012 6:00 AM Reg. Deadline: 3/17/2012	\$35.00

[Submit Selections](#)

- (10) Verify your selections and click on “[Pay Now](#)” button.

Eligible Contests for Firstname
Amount For Selected Contests 105
Submitted Successfully

Pending Contests

	Contestant Name	Contest	Chapter	Contest Date	Fee
Delete	Firstname Lastname	Senior Spelling	Stamford, CT	Mar 31, 2012 6:00 AM Reg. Deadline: 3/17/2012	\$35.00
Delete	Firstname Lastname	Intermediate Vocabulary	Stamford, CT	Mar 31, 2012 6:00 AM Reg. Deadline: 3/17/2012	\$35.00
Delete	Firstname Lastname	Math Level 2	Stamford, CT	Mar 31, 2012 6:00 AM Reg. Deadline: 3/17/2012	\$35.00

Amount For Pending Contests \$ 105

[Pay Now](#)

Complete selections for all children before pressing Pay Now.
Without submitting, your selections will not be registered.

(11) Verify, once more, your selections on the summary page

Name of Child	Contest Selected	Fee	Contest Date	Chapter	Venue
Firstname Lastname	Senior Spelling	\$35.00	31-Mar-2012	Stamford, CT	Fairfield University
Firstname Lastname	Intermediate Vocabulary	\$35.00	31-Mar-2012	Stamford, CT	Fairfield University
Firstname Lastname	Math Level 2	\$35.00	31-Mar-2012	Stamford, CT	Fairfield University

Total Fee to be Paid : \$105.00

2/3rd of the Registration Fee is tax-deductible.

[Continue](#)

Note: Please verify your selections for each child along with event date, chapter and location. The date and location are subject to change. Visit www.northsouth.org for the latest information.

Once paid, your payment is non-refundable.

(12) Confirm the terms and conditions and press “Accept”.

I have read and understood the terms and conditions described above. Further, from the North South Foundation website, I have read and understood the a) General Rules, b) Specific Rules applicable to my contest(s), c) General FAQs (frequently asked questions), and d) Specific FAQs applicable to my contest(s). I accept and will comply with all the terms and conditions implied therein, all inclusive.

If you choose to decline, the Registrations for the contest(s) will not Complete. In that case, you may come back again at a later date to complete the registration.

[Decline](#)

[Accept](#)

(13) Enter information in optional donations page and click “Continue”. (Note: System shows \$250 default donation, please feel free to change it to zero or another amount.)

NSF Donation

Optional Donation(US\$) [Tell me more](#)

Make it Zero if you don't want to donate.

Donation For: ▼

I am interested in supporting the NSF Scholarships in India (please check one below)

will contribute at least one scholarship to help a poor child go to college in India (\$250 per child per year)

will make every effort to raise funds for at least one poor child in India (\$250 per child per year)

I would like to help the following NSF India chapter

▼

[Continue](#)

(14) Refunds will not be given once payment is made. Contests may be changed before close of registration, but cannot be transferred to a sibling. If you have registered for a contest, say, Spelling, instead of Math, and payment has been made, then you can change to Math for that child without additional fees. Enter credit card information and press “Submit for Payment”.

Please ensure credit card information entered is accurate. Credit Card holder name, Card number and Card expiration date should be correct. If payment fails for some reason, you will need to start all over again.	
Credit Card Information	
Card Holder Name	<input type="text"/> (as it exactly appears on your card)
Card Number	<input type="text"/>
Card Expiration	Month <input type="text"/> Year <input type="text"/>

*** Please read the following notes before you proceed with payment:

1. After clicking on "Submit for Payment," please be patient and wait for the payment confirmation screen. This can take 10 seconds or up to 3 minutes depending on Internet traffic and the speed of your connection.
2. Please do not use "Back Button" or "Refresh button" on your Browser to avoid any duplicate charges to your Credit Card.
3. We had instances of people pressing "Submit for Payment" multiple times due to impatience, which resulted in multiple charges.
4. If you do not want to pay at this time [Click Here](#) to go back to Registration Page.

Clicking Submit for Payment will enable credit card payment. Your registration will be completed, after your credit card payment is processed and a confirmation is received.

[Submit for Payment](#)

- (15) After successfully paying with your credit card, you will receive a confirmation email.
- (16) Logout from the system.
- (17) Please note that the schedule shown in your chapter calendar is tentative. Please reconfirm the schedule two weeks before the contests by checking the calendar on the website or by contacting your chapter coordinator.

Once registered and paid, you will have an opportunity to download practice words and/or sample questions as well as Structured Learning Program (SLP) guide. If you miss this opportunity, you can still get the material by following the steps below.

- a) From www.northsouth.org, place your cursor on "US LOGIN" which appears on the top right hand side and click on "Parent Login" link
- b) Enter your login ID and password
- c) Click on "[View Status for Regional Contests](#)" and you will see, next to the contestant name, a downloadable link for spelling/vocabulary practice words in .pdf form. We provide 1,000 practice words for spelling or vocabulary bee. For Math/Geography/Science/Public Speaking/Essay Writing bees, the downloadable files contain sample questions and these are for guidance only. You can also download Structured Learning Program (SLP) guide.

- d) **How to download the files:** Right-click on the link, and choose *Save file on your hard disk* option. Once saved, you can print a copy for practice.

Some Useful Links:

NSF Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthSouthFoundation>

NSF Twitter Page: <http://twitter.com/NSFBee>

Competitions & Scholarships:

http://www.northsouth.org/public/others/yp_competitions.aspx

NSF India Scholarships: <http://www.northsouth.org/public/india/scholarships.aspx>

NSF Math Column: <http://www.northsouth.org/public/kidscorner/mathcolumn.aspx>

Online Bee Games: <https://www.northsouth.org/app9/Login.aspx?entry=G>

Spelling Bee

Rules: <http://www.northsouth.org/public/uscontests/regionals/spelling/spellingRules.aspx>

Preparation: <http://www.northsouth.org/public/uscontests/regionals/spelling/spellingPrep.aspx>

Vocabulary Bee

Rules: <http://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Regionals/vocabulary/vocabularyRules.aspx>

Preparation:

<http://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Regionals/vocabulary/vocabularyPrep.aspx>

Math Bee

Rules:

<http://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Regionals/math/mathRules.aspx>

Preparation:

<http://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Regionals/math/mathPrep.aspx>

Science Bee

Rules: <http://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Regionals/science/scienceRules.aspx>

Preparation: <http://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Regionals/science/sciencePrep.aspx>

Geography Bee

Rules: <http://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Regionals/geography/geographyRules.aspx>

Preparation:

<http://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Regionals/geography/geographyPrep.aspx>

Essay Writing

Rules: <http://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Regionals/essaywriting/essayRules.aspx>

Preparation:

<http://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Regionals/essaywriting/essayPrep.aspx>

Public Speaking

Rules:

<http://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Regionals/publicspeaking/publicspeakingRules.aspx>

Preparation:

<http://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Regionals/publicspeaking/publicspeakingPrep.aspx>