

The Buzz From Brilliant Bees In Michigan

Ann Arbor, MI — University of Michigan campus appeared to be rejuvenated on 18th & 19th week end of August with more than 1200 bee champions from all over U.S. This revolution was because North South Foundation held its **2012 National Finals** championship here at U of M campus, Ann Arbor, Michigan. These contestants were top rank holders from regional contests held in the month of March, April & May 2012.



These regional bee champions were in the grade level of elementary school thro' high school going kids representing their chapters at national level in various categories like Spelling, Vocabulary, Geography, Math, Science, Essay Writing, Public Speaking and Brain Bee. All the contests were planned and scheduled in such a way that kids who were qualified for more than one subject didn't need to be concerned about having two subject at the same time and missing an opportunity to compete in one or the other contest.

With kids scuttling from room to room for attending various phases of the contests, it was certain that people around felt emotions running high in the environment.....some over the moon for winning the contest, some sad for not making it to the next level, some little nervous & anxious about the next contest. However, it's crystal clear that each one of these contestants is a winner irrespective of the end result for being able to represent their chapters at national level and also for dedicating their summer holidays preparing for the national finals, so with no doubt they deserve to be called CHAMPIONS. It was an amazing feeling for parents & others to witness these next generation scientists, mathematicians, professors, business tycoons slowly walking down the aisle and moving up the podium to receive their honor.

North South Foundation, also known popularly as NSF organizes educational contests in the US are designed to encourage academic excellence among Indian American children. NSF is a non-profit organization established in 1989.

NSF Mission is to:

- Develop human resources by giving scholarships to brilliant but needy students in India entering college, regardless of religion, gender, caste or creed.
- Promote excellence in human endeavor by organizing Educational Contests for the children in United States.
- Help people achieve success regardless of religion, gender, caste, geographic origin by giving hope to those who may have none.

North South Foundation is all run by volunteers with no payroll. With a single minded focus, the founder, Dr. Ratnam Chitturi, has fostered this enterprise for over 20 years by providing a platform for a generation of committed and passionate volunteers. Due to the tireless efforts of Dr. Murali

Gavini in the earlier years and the founder in the later years, increasing opportunities were provided for contestants to demonstrate superior academic performance.

NSF started MathCounts and Pre-MathCounts online coaching in 2010 with the objective of getting children accustomed to doing homework on a regular basis as well as begin working on MathCount kind of problems. These online coaching classes taught by NSF volunteers gained popularity in very short span of time. NSF conducts Spelling, Vocabulary, Math & Geography Bee workshops in many of their centers. Currently, NSF working rigorously on Science workshop material for Junior, Intermediate & Senior level so that kids can use these materials as a base in preparing themselves to be competitive in science.

NSF students have been excelling in many of national level major league competitions. To name few, NSF kids are most predominant in esteemed Scripps National Spelling Bee. NSF children have been retaining champion trophy in Scripps National Spelling Bee since 2006.

- Snigdha Nandipati (2012)
- Sukanya Roy (2011)
- Anamika Veeramani (2010)
- Kavya Shivashankar (2009)
- Sammer Mishra (2008)

NSF students have also been doing extremely well in National Geography Bee, which is another prestigious contest at national level.

- Vansh Jain (2012)
- Nilai Sarda (2011)
- Arjun Kandaswamy (2009)
- Suneil Iyer (2007)
- Neeraj Sirdeshmukh (2006)

have been runner-up in National Geography Bee. Many NSF kids have made it to the MathCount national round and Science Bowl.

Additionally, NSF had also organized pro training sessions this year during national finals for kids in various subjects. The purpose of these training sessions was to provide an opportunity for kids to get guideline from pro trainers as well as meet with previous bee winners. In addition to training sessions for kids, many other useful sessions were held to help all age group audience. Professionals & previous year's bee champions who were kind enough to come all the way and share extensive knowledge were:

Spelling	- Mr. Mirle Shivshankar & Scripps Winners
Geography	- Mr. Kumar Nandur & Dr. Ram Iyer
Math	- Dr. Krishnaiah Revuluri & Dr. Anil Sethi
Science	- Mr. Velu S, Mr. Shankar P & Mr. Prashant M
College Prep	- Ms. Swati
Self Esteem & Setting Goals	- Dr. PadmajaNandigama

Healthy & Disease Nutrition - Mrs. Lalitha
Yoga - Mrs. Kitty Pinnamaneni


This prodigious national finals event turned out to be most memorable with the presence of honorable chief guests who cordially accepted NSF invitation to attend the event. It was such a privilege to have


- Dr. James Holloway
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, U of M, MI
- Mr. Surya Prasad Padala
Founder & President of Padala Charitable Trust (PCT), MI
- Mr. Vijay Sankaran
Director, Application Development, Ford Motor Company, MI
- Dr. Neelkant Shukla
NSF National event coordinator
- Dr. KS Rayudu
NSF India - National coordinator


at the award ceremony to recognize the winners and to encourage all the children.


Finally, this article seems to be unfinished without mentioning about NSF volunteers at 2012 National Finals. Here is a big SALUTE to those dedicated, caring, unselfish people who have heart full of grace, who lighten the burden of others, who believe in all work and not get paid.....not because they are worthless but because they are priceless. There were more than 200 volunteers including high school & college going students from Michigan and couple other states who were incredibly kind enough to come and make this remarkable event successful. There were couple other key members behind the scene like NSF Founder Dr. Ratnam Chitturi, National Coordinator Srinivas Reddy Gudeti, Convener Krishna Karunakaram and also National Finals Team members Ashok Mollin, Raj Jayachandran toiled countless hours prepping mammoth task. This wouldn't have been possible without their immense amount of hard work.


The following are the 2012 National Finals Winners:


 <i>Shourav Dasari</i>	JUNIOR SPELLING BEE
	1. Shourav Dasari, Pearland, TX
	2. Tejas Muthusamy, Glen Allen, VA
	3. Raksheet Kota, Katy, TX


	SENIOR SPELLING BEE
	1. Sriram Hathwar, Painted Post, NY
	2. Kuvam Shahane, Rochester Hills, MI
	3. Lokesh Nagineni, Flower Mound, TX
<i>Sriram Hathwar</i>	

	JUNIOR VOCABULARY BEE
	1. Naveen Mukkatt, Barrington, IL
	2. Sujan Sridhar, Sacramento, CA
	3. Ashna Chali, St. Louis, MO
<i>Naveen Mukkat</i>	

	INTERMEDIATE VOCABULARY BEE
	1. Kuvam Shahane, Rochester Hills, MI
	2. Koshik Mahapatra, Stamford, CT
	3. Rohan Chalasani, Pittsburgh, PA
<i>Kuvam Shahane</i>	


	MATH BEE LEVEL 1
	1. Alor Sahoo, Bakerfield, CA
	2. Atharva Pathak, Gainsville, FL
	3. Pravalika Putalapattu, Fairfax, VA
<i>Alor Sahoo</i>	


	MATH BEE LEVEL 2
	1. Shaan Bhandarkar, Ashburn, VA
	2. Neeyanth Kopparapu, Fairfax, VA
	3. Shruthi Parthasarathi, Mason, OH
<i>Shaan Bhandarkar</i>	


 <i>Ankan Bhattacharya</i>	MATH BEE LEVEL 3
	1. Ankan Bhattacharya, Canton, MI
	2. Akshaj Kodaveru, Fairfax, VA
	3. Mayuka Vadari, Seattle, WA


 <i>Naveen Mukkat</i>	JUNIOR SCIENCE BEE
	1. Naveen Mukkatt, Barrington, IL
	2. Vivek Vijayakumar, Irvine, CA
	3. Kanav Mittal, Palo Alto, CA


 <i>Sanath Govindarajan</i>	INTERMEDIATE SCIENCE BEE
	1. Sanath Govindarajan, Houston, TX
	2. Advait Pilkhane, San Diego, CA
	3. Shivani Nellore, Louisville, KY


 <i>Shrvan Ravishankar</i>	SENIOR SCIENCE BEE
	1. Shrvan Ravishankar, Indianapolis, IN
	2. Chhatesh Thavamani, Troy, MI
	3. Suvansh Sanjeev, Seattle, WA

 <i>Siddharth Krishnakumar</i>	JUNIOR GEOGRAPHY BEE
	1. Siddharth Krishnakumar, Fairfax, VA
	2. Ronak Saluja, Manchester, NH
	3. Shriya Yarlagadda, Grand Blanc, MI

	SENIOR GEOGRAPHY BEE
	1. Asha Jain, Madison, WI
	2. Rohit Rajiv, Worcester, MA
	3. Sathwik Karnik, Worcester, MA
<i>Asha Jain</i>	

	SENIOR ESSAY WRITING BEE
	1. Sameer Kailasa, Ft Lauderdale, FL
	2. Sonia Samanth, Jacksonville, FL
	3. Abhishek Rao, Wilmington, DE
<i>Sameer Kailasa</i>	

	SENIOR PUBLIC SPEAKING BEE
	1. Varun Jambunath, Cleveland, OH
	2. Karthik Munugala, Novi, MI
	3. Jayanth Wunnava, Princeton, NJ
<i>Varun Jambunath</i>	

	BRAIN BEE
	1. Meghana Ganapathiraju, Raleigh, NC
	2. Samir Durvasula, Rockville, MD
	3. Sameer Kailasa, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
<i>Meghana Ganapathiraju</i>	

NSF funds scholarships by raising funds in the US through bees and direct donations. This year NSF achieved record registration of 15200 students across 85 chapters at regional level contests. The NSF Scholarship program is designed to encourage excellence among the poor children in different parts of India who excel academically but need financial help to attend college. NSF has provided 7800 scholarships for college-bound meritorious students since its inception with each scholarship \$250 per student per year. The scholarship is an annual award and not a one-time payment. The student is eligible for the scholarship until graduation as long as he/she maintains high academic standards. The local chapters in various states of India invite applications from students, screen them and select the neediest students who eventually become NSF scholarship recipients. NSF recently signed an MOU with **Jawahar Nayodaya Vidyalaya Samiti** to provide NSF

scholarships to the needy students and conduct educational contests among their 600 schools across the country.

NSF wants to thank all the parents for nurturing & creating desire in their kids for accomplishment. The NSF 2012 National Finals were sponsored in part by individuals, foundations and corporations. For more information about the NSF activities please visit www.northsouth.org or you can contact **Dr. Ratnam Chitturi** at **630-323-1966**.