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"I have been volunteering for NSF for the past 4 years and I am very proud to be part of the NSF family. Very humbled that my efforts are helping students in US and in India." - Rutvik G, Youth Volunteer

Volunteers Are The Heart Of NorthSouth!

The NorthSouth has built quite a following over 30+ years. We've been blessed with so many well wishers and interested people of all ages - and together we have found a way to support 20,000 scholarships halfway around the world! We have also found a way to challenge, teach, and coach thousands of students here in the U.S., who have inspired us with their stories in high school, college, and beyond. These children - our children - are truly changing the world. We've been able to create an atmosphere of learning - helping children and young adults reach their potential - through our infrastructure. But what's contributed even more to that atmosphere is our volunteer corps.

It takes hundreds of volunteers each year to bring 90 chapters to life, each serving dozens of students here in the U.S. This where we need your help. This newsletter is distributed to nearly 50,000 families. But we have fewer than 10,000 volunteers in our database, and the active volunteers these days comprise only about 10% of that number. Less than 1000 active volunteers, to support 50,000 families in the U.S., and thousands of scholarships in India? That's not enough. **We need your help.**

We need teachers, coaches, contest content developers, question writers, technical specialists, financial wizards, fundraising magicians, I.T. gurus, administrative experts, human resource experts, and more. In short, if you've got a talent, we will find a spot for you. I hope you will take the time to make a difference by signing up [here](#). You could help that next NorthSouth child to change the world!

**All the best,
Balu Natarajan
President**

Transition Cabinet Members



Dr. Balu
Natarajan



Praveen
Katta



Praveen
Goli



Anita
Gavini



Savitha
Rajiv



Krishnan
Gowri



Jagadeesh
Gullapalli



SPOTLIGHT: Youth Volunteer Govind Chada, NorthSouth Youth Leadership Program (NSYLP)

What is your association with NorthSouth?

I was introduced to NorthSouth about 10 years ago at a competition. As a young child, I was motivated to participate in the competitions just to win a trophy.

My parents have also been long time volunteers with NorthSouth. Over the years I have come to appreciate the bigger purpose and started volunteering regularly in various NorthSouth activities including conducting workshops, regional and national events, mentoring, and teaching STEM to young students.

What is your current role at NorthSouth?

I am the founder and director of the NorthSouth Youth Leadership Program. Pushing the boundaries in math and science sometimes inadvertently comes at the expense of developing communication skills and leadership traits. The **North South Youth Leadership Program (NSYLP)** was conceived in 2018 with an aim to develop leadership qualities in high school students through opportunities to teach younger children.

What was your motivation behind creating the math coaching program ?

The Math Coaching program is the vehicle through which the NSYLP is currently achieving its objectives. Through this program, youth coaches will strengthen their communication skills, enhance teamwork, collaboration & time management skills. They also learn how to work through unforeseen challenges and build confidence by successfully delivering program objectives. At the same time, youth coaches help younger students learn advanced math and problem solving skills while raising money for scholarships for underprivileged children. NSYLP plans to expand to include other subjects and add more leadership development opportunities.

What challenges did you face with NSYLP?

The biggest challenge is making the program **sustainable**. The NSYLP provides a pathway for NorthSouth alum to engage in volunteering activities of increasing responsibilities each year. We aim to give them a multiyear engagement - younger high school volunteers begin in backend roles to help develop content and as they gain experience, they are able to transition into instructor and team lead roles. The older, more experienced volunteers take on mentorship roles to the new coaches.

The goal is for the youth volunteers to engage in the program not only through high school but encourage them to be creative leaders who can contribute throughout their college and professional careers.

What motivates you to continue your work in the organization?

I think that there is a lot of progress that can be made, whether that's in education, leadership, or healthcare, and I would like to contribute to this progress. It's also very rewarding and validating to hear about the positive experiences of the youth volunteers of NSYLP and to see them build confidence & grow as leaders.

Who is your role model and why?

Dr. Chitturi has been an incredible inspiration for me. To build such a large organization from scratch and to keep it sustaining for 30 years, with a volunteer-only effort, is an amazing feat that truly inspires me. My parents who are long time NorthSouth volunteers have been incredibly supportive of me in every way, giving me the freedom to explore and being there through my successes and failures. They taught me to work hard without worrying about results.

Working with the organization, I have met some incredible people who selflessly spend hundreds of hours and long nights to make things come together. All this has been a great learning opportunity and inspiration for me.

Govind lives in Cypress, TX with his mother Neetha who was the co-convenor of the 2017 National Finals held in Houston, his dad Ram who coaches middle school students in Math & Science. as well as his sister Shri, a middle school student.

Govind is a freshman at Stanford University. We wish him the very best!



Spelling Corner

Ne Plus Ultra

The highest point possibly
achievable; acme



Etymology

The word ne plus ultra derives from the New Latin phrase ne plus ultra which is directly translated as no (ne) more (plus) beyond (ultra). The word was first used in 1637.

Usage

"This is the climax," he thought,
"the ne plus ultra of it all!"

SPOTLIGHT: Lalitha Coimbatore Top Universal Values Volunteer



Lalitha Coimbatore is an IT professional specializing in ecommerce and digital technology. She is an avid reader who enjoys reading courtroom dramas, crime solvers and philosophy.

Lalitha has been a long time North South Foundation volunteer contributing as Universal values coach and Regional Essay writing judge for the Fort Lauderdale Chapter. She has been coaching Universal Values since 2014 and has coached levels 101 and 201 for Intermediate and Seniors over the years.

Lalitha coaches 2 sessions a week despite her busy work schedule. She enjoys the Universal Values program because it is a great opportunity to impart and imbibe the life values and a golden chance to give back to the community. In 2018 she was honored with the ***Distinguished Service Award*** by North South Foundation for her tireless efforts.

Charity begins at home. Lalitha has a son in high school who has been a North South Foundation contestant and now a Math coach, following in his mother's footsteps. Kudos to Lalitha for imbibing the values of volunteerism in her.

For more information about the Universal Values program, visit:
northsouth.org/public/USContests/coaching/universalvalues



"By volunteering for the Impromptu Speaking Competition, I learned about the massive amount of planning needed to conduct a national competition, both in-person and virtual, and the wholehearted dedication of students, parents, and volunteers." - Achyudhan K, Adult Volunteer

"I love giving back to NSF and it feels very satisfying knowing that my contributions are helping students here in the US as well as students in India." - Rishik G - 2019 Scripps Spelling Bee Co-Champion

"It was really fun! I especially loved working with the other volunteers because they were very communicative and had great spirit." - Shreya Mogulothu, Youth Volunteer

EDUCATION MARATHON

Contests teach you where you stand. They show how you measure up among your peers, and provide insight into your strength and weakness in the subject. **Coaching gives you the gift of knowledge.** It helps you gain the knowledge to perform at your best and expand your horizons.

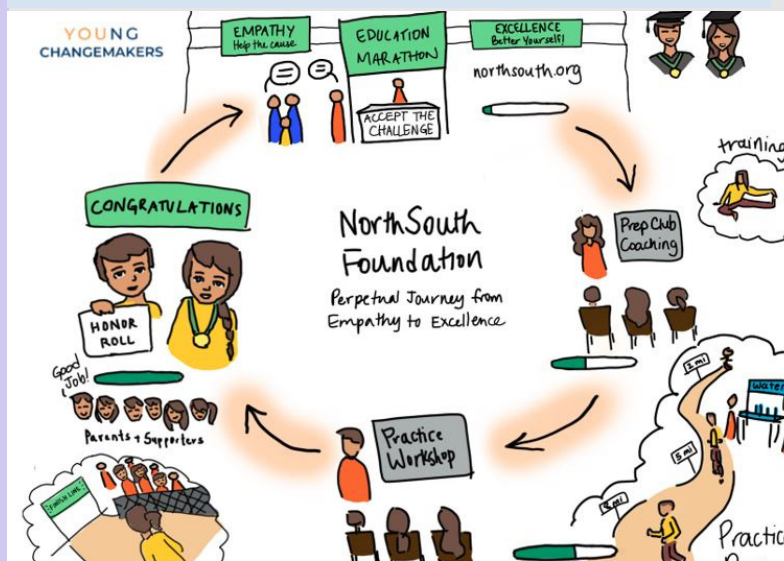
As we've referenced in prior newsletters, the North South Foundation considers our work akin to an Educational Marathon. Results from the online contests held in August 2020 highlights the impact of coaching.

About 500 of the 1500 contestants who participated in Math bee had enrolled in the NorthSouth coaching program. These 500 contestants performed on an average 10% better than their peers across all of our Math Bee levels! It is also worth noting that the coaching at an earlier grade level resulted in higher scores, particularly in Phase II when strategies and time management are critical.

These skills are acquired through regular practice and subject matter experts guiding you through the learning process - which we can attest as the best preparation method to strengthen your skills.

The coaching program not only prepares you to excel by being ahead of your school curriculum but also perform well in NorthSouth contests and other local, national and international academic competitions.

Shreya Mogulothu, a high school NorthSouth volunteer from NJ sketched the image below, beautifully capturing how our children benefit from the North South Foundation's commitment



Online Coaching Registration Deadline Extended to Oct 4th/7th with late fee



Our Coaches Are:

- Scripps champions!
- Geo bee champions!
- Brain bee champs!
- Mathcounts finalists!
- Researchers!
- SAT/ACT high achievers!
- Toastmasters!

Come join our online coaching program & learn from the elite !! Registration Deadline: October 4, 2020 (without late fee). October 7th, 2020 (with a late fee)



Coaching Subjects

- Math
- Science
- Geography
- Spelling
- Vocab
- Brain Bee
- SAT/ACT
- Vedic Math
- Python Prog
- Public Speaking
- Confidence Building
- Universal Values

Registration is Now OPEN!

Classes start in Oct 19th. Register online today!!

For questions about the program: coaching@northsouth.org

Information about the coaching program:

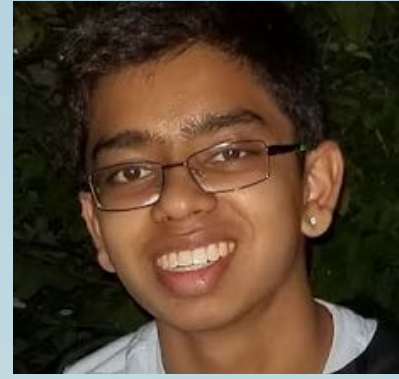
northsouth.org/public/uscontests/coaching/Coaching

"I really enjoyed as it was first time for me. I would like to volunteer again and again as it gave me a lot of confidence. Thanks for the opportunity." - Srikrishna P, Youth Volunteer



2018 International Geography Bee Champion: Saket Pochiraju

I still remember the first time I participated in a geography contest. In the spring of 2012, as a 2nd grader I had just participated in the NorthSouth Math & Spelling contests. I did not know that my dad had signed me up for the Geography bee too. I had always liked learning about the world. I used to spend hours finding new, interesting places on the other side of the globe, whether that was through fawning over the DK Atlas I had gotten in kindergarten, or reading books about countries from my school library, or by just clicking on the Wii weather channel map in between games of tennis (which I'm still a pro at by the way). I decided to give this geography bee a shot.



Looking back, some of my answers to the questions were laughable, but I had a great time and ended up placing 2nd. My score qualified me for the national finals in Ann Arbor, the only contest I got an award in that day.

Attending those first finals was eye-opening. The sheer number of kids there that all had this great interest in the world's workings, just like I did, was truly amazing. And after the contests were over, playing frisbee with them under the hot summer sun -that's a memory I still cherish to this day. No, I didn't win there that day, I hadn't even come particularly close, but making it there showed me what I could do, and what there was to be done. There was a whole world out there waiting to be explored.

Over the next few years, I started to learn much more, and my contest performances began showing for that. I started cracking the top 10 - 10th in 2013, 8th in 2014, and then in 2015, when the NSF finals came to our hometown, Columbus, winning it all in the SGB. In the coming years I also shined in other geography competitions, winning the Ohio State Geo Bee for a consecutive three-year stretch and capping off my "career" with a top-10 finish in the 2018 National Geographic Bee and gold at the first-ever International Geography Bee world championships, which were held that summer in Berlin, Germany.

Now I support my brother Satvik in his preparation for the geography bee. I volunteer at our local NSF chapter, help run our geography prep clubs and a coach in the NSF online coaching program.

GeoGenius

In 2019, along with some friends I met through the bees including several NSF alumni, we started GeoGenius, a website to help anyone interested in learning and explore our world. Our intent was to create a great resourceful platform that would help anyone preparing for geography bees, with all pertinent information in one place (if you've ever tried preparing for such a competition, you know that would help A LOT).

As we've grown however, we've realized a much greater theme that needs to be highlighted. Geography is much more than just some place names on a map or some questions in a middle school competition - it's a discipline that touches every aspect of our lives and is critical to better understand how our world works. With GeoGenius we present that information in a way that can be relevant, applicable, and accessible to anyone through fun, fascinating blog articles, detailed easy-to-digest infographics, and captivating, interactive maps.

NSF will always have a special place in my heart, as my introduction to the geo bee and one of the catalysts for my growth. I hope to continue my journey and contributing to this great organization.

Saket Pochiraju

"It was really fun working with the kids and questioning them. it was great experience and I would love to do it next time. I like to collaborate with other kids and help out my community." Adharsh K, Youth Volunteer



How Volunteering Changed My Life It Can Change Yours Too!

By V.R. Feroze, Senior Vice President, HEAD of SAP Academy for Engineering, SAP SE

The power of volunteering has always played an important role in building resilient communities, and quantifying its impact is a herculean task. This urges critical questions like:

- *What makes a volunteer-based organization successful?*
- *Why do hundreds of volunteers work throughout the year, without money or glory, contributing selflessly towards the core mission and purpose they are associated with?*
- *What are the challenges volunteers experience while juggling multiple aspects of life: career choices, family responsibilities, and the need for financial assistance?*



[Link to the webinar session](#)

[Link to the presentation Material](#)

Listen to V R Feroze share his experiences and learnings from running an entirely volunteer-driven non-profit organization, **The India Inclusion Foundation**, with the audacious aim of making India Inclusive by 2030.

About V.R. Feroze: Based in Palo Alto, Feroze heads the SAP Academy for Engineering. Feroze is the Chairperson on the Board of Specialisterne USA, a not-for-profit foundation with the goal to create one million jobs for people with autism and similar challenges. He is the founder of the India Inclusion Foundation a nonprofit, aiming to bring the topic of inclusion at the forefront in India. The India Inclusion Summit, The Inclusion Fellowship, Art For Inclusion and The Inclusive Walkathon are some of the initiatives under the nonprofit.

Feroze has co-authored a best-seller book on people with disabilities, GIFTED. The book has been translated into six Indian regional languages. The Kannada translation won the prestigious Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award. He also co-authored "Innovating the World: The Globalization Advantage" and "GRIT: The Major Story".

Feroze teaches "Personal Leadership" at Columbia University, New York and is a columnist for Forbes, New Indian Express and Mint.

"I really enjoyed as it was first time for me. I would like to volunteer again and again as it gave me a lot of confidence. Thanks for the opportunity." - Srikrishna P, Youth Volunteer

"I had a great experience volunteering during this event. I had a lot of fun judging the competition and I would do it again if given the chance." - Pranay D, Adult Volunteer

Enhance Your LinkedIn Profile - Add Volunteering @ NorthSouth To Your Business Profile

As a NorthSouth volunteer you play an important role to help children in the U.S. and India. You should be proud of your work and showcase your efforts to others. Many of you use LinkedIn to advance your professional career and make business connections. Most people include employment history, education, and certifications on their LinkedIn profile.

An important category that many miss is listing their volunteering experience. Employers (both present and future) and business colleagues like to work with well rounded people. Adding your NorthSouth volunteer experience can help get you noticed. Including NorthSouth in your profile also increases the visibility of the foundation among business professionals. It showcases the large network of professionals that have chosen to give their valuable time to our great mission.

How to add NorthSouth to your LinkedIn profile

When adding your entry in LinkedIn, make sure you select North South Foundation from the drop down menu. This will link your profile to NorthSouth.

1. You can add North South Foundation under the **Experience** section of your profile. You will then show up as an "employee" of NorthSouth on the foundation's LinkedIn page. People visiting NorthSouth's LinkedIn profile will then see all the people that help it thrive.
2. You can add North South Foundation under the Volunteer section of the profile. This will allow you to show off your contribution to NorthSouth, but your name will not appear on NorthSouth's LinkedIn profile page.

Check out some of our volunteers LinkedIn profiles:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/anita-gavini/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/giri-cherukuri-cfa-881b2/>

NorthSouth Social Media platforms:



Please contact socialmedia@northsouth.org for questions related to the NorthSouth Social Medias.

"It was a really fun experience! I enjoyed meeting new people and helping students learn!" - Naysa M, 2018 Scripps Spelling Bee Runner Up

" It was a lot of fun working with NSF to host the spelling bee even if it got a little stressful at times. I really enjoyed the opportunity to host such an event and would love to keep on working with you all in the future." - Siyona M, Youth Volunteer

"I had a great team in both the preliminaries and finals that was easy to work with and made it a smooth process." - Pranathi J, Youth Volunteer



Perplexing Puzzles

When you solve the puzzles, email your solutions to newsletter@northsouth.org to be recognized in the next issue.

Solutions to Last Week's Puzzles



Cubic Dilemma

The corner of the Rubik's cube that faces the viewer has two blue stickers. For the blue side to be solved, both stickers have to be on the blue side. This is not possible.

What Am I?

My life can be measured in hours Candles have a short lifespan.

I serve by being devoured A candle's purpose is to burn.

*Thin, I am quick.
Fat, I am slow.* Thin candles burn more quickly than fat candles.

Wind is my foe Wind extinguishes candles.

Idiomatic Image

The image represents the phrase
"Call it a day."



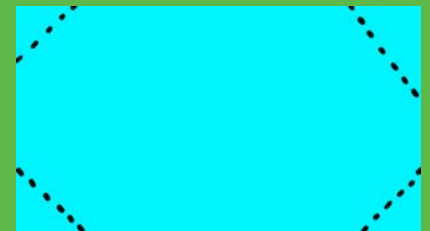
This Week's Puzzles

You have received a letter in your mail declaring that you have won the rights to a brand new house! The letter says it's a one-story house made completely of redwood. But, when you go claim your prize, a man in a black suit claims that you cannot enter the house unless you answer his question: what color are the stairs of the redwood house?

You have a basket containing ten apples. You have ten friends, who each desire an apple. You give each of your friends one apple. Now all your friends have one apple each, yet there is an apple remaining in the basket. How is this possible?

Idiomatic Image

What phrase does the picture represent?



Chapter Directors Virtual Road Tour Photo Gallery

Midwest-WEST: AR, KY, TN, MO, KS, NE



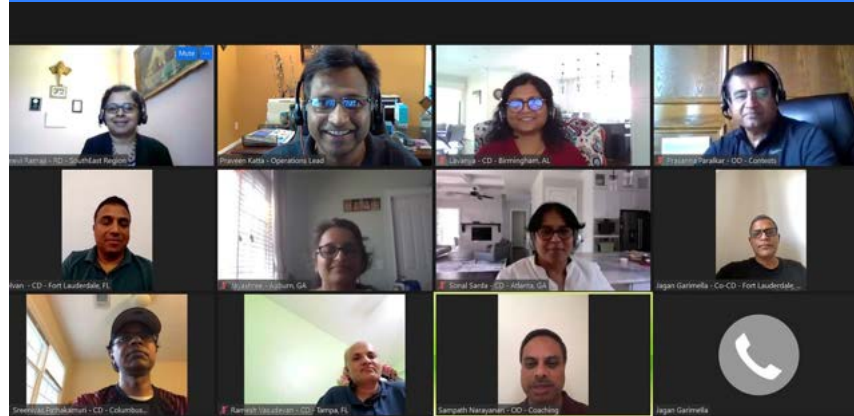
Midwest-CENTRAL: MN, WI, IA, IL



Mid-Atlantic: NJ, PA, DE



SouthEast: GA, FL, AL



REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Savitha Rajiv
North-East (NH, MA)

Venkat Gade
Atlantic (CT, NY, MD,
VA)

Jagadeesh Gullapalli
Mid-Atlantic (NJ, PA, DE)

Praveen Katta
South-Central (NC, SC)

Janevi Ramaji
South-East (AL, FL, GA)

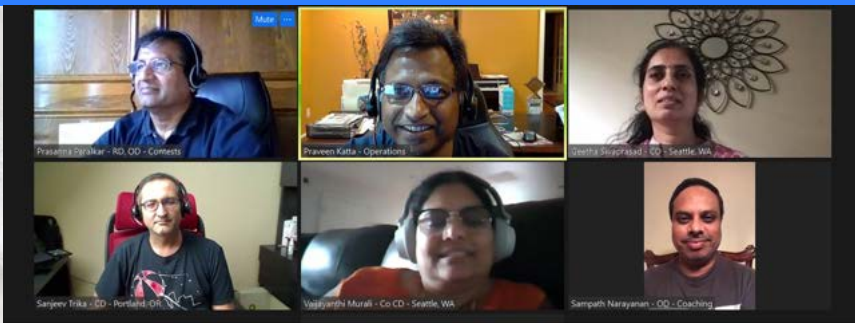
Sai Rachakonda
Texas (TX, OK)

**One person
can make a
difference,
and every
person must
try.**

~John F. Kennedy



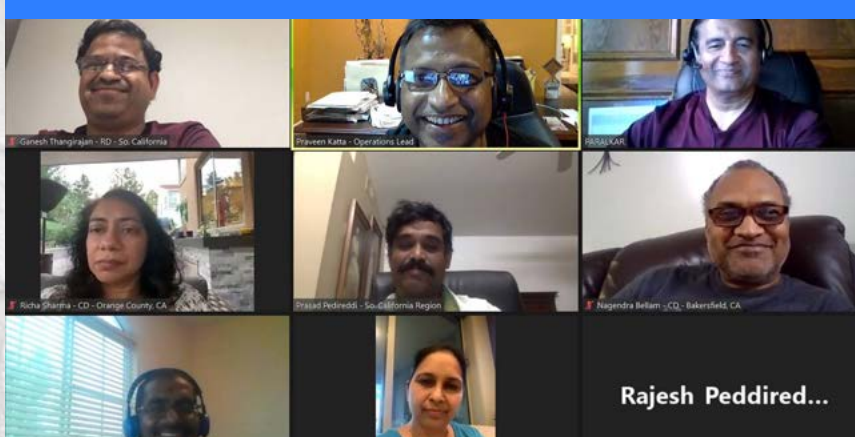
NorthWest : WA, OR



Northern California



Southern California



West - AZ, CO, NM, NV, UT



REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Srinivas Gudeti
MW-East (OH, MI, IN)

MS Rao
MW-Central (MN, WI, IA, IL)

Ravi Jayaram
MW-West (AR, KY, TN, MO,
KS, NE)

Prasanna Paralkar
North-West (WA, OR)

Suri Jetty
Northern-CA (North of Bakersfield)

Ganesh Thangaraj
Southern-CA (Bakersfield & South)

Jyotshna Gunturu
West (AZ, CO, NM, NV, UT)

