

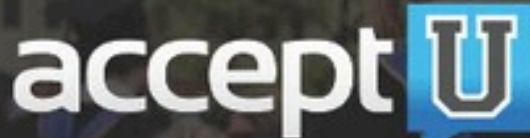
# BEFORE BOOK 2025

[illegible]

University of Texas at Dallas

SPELLING VOCABULARY MATH SCIENCE GEOGRAPHY BRAIN BEE  
ESSAY WRITING PUBLIC SPEAKING





**The #1 rated college admissions consulting group and official college counseling partner of the North South Foundation**

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---

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# CONVENOR'S NOTE

My profound congratulations goes out to all the National Finalists. Please be aware that your selection was made from a pool of over 8,000 participants in this year's regional contests, a truly impressive achievement for which you should be exceptionally proud. This national event offers a unique opportunity to forge indelible memories. I encourage you to savor every moment, cultivate meaningful connections, and leave a positive impact on both this event and the individuals you encounter.



Since its inception in 1989, the North South Foundation has been dedicated to empowering students to realize their fullest potential. Through academic coaching, the Learning Journey program, and various competitions, the North South Foundation provides a robust pathway to success for students from all backgrounds. Furthermore, the organization actively supports disadvantaged students by providing financial assistance to pursue their educational aspirations. To date, the Foundation has awarded over 30,000 scholarships to deserving students in India, enabling them to pursue higher education. It is noteworthy that a portion of every contest registration fee contributes directly to these educational initiatives in India.

To our young participants, we extend our best wishes as you engage in the contests. Regardless of the outcome, please know that you are all the winners. We sincerely hope that our NorthSouth families have an enriching experience at the finals and thoroughly enjoy the culinary offerings, activities, MTPs, and other engaging programs we have meticulously arranged for your enjoyment. I wish to express my gratitude to all parents, siblings, and grandparents for their invaluable assistance in preparing the students for these finals. As parents, the most profound contributions we can bestow upon our children are a comprehensive education, a nurturing environment, and a strong foundation of ethical values. Equipped with these fundamental skills, they will undoubtedly explore the world and catalyze positive transformations in human lives.

Special commendation is due to John Kyle, Senior Director of Events and Operations, Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center, UTD, for his instrumental role in securing UTD as the distinguished venue for these finals. We are profoundly grateful to all our sponsors for their generous contributions in support of this event, and to all the volunteers for their invaluable time and dedicated effort in ensuring its success.

On behalf of my co-convenor, Latha Beeram, Volunteer Director Rachana Kowtha, and the entirety of the 2025 National Finals Team, I extend a heartfelt welcome. Your presence here is deeply appreciated. We sincerely hope you have a remarkable and enjoyable experience during your time in Dallas for National Finals 2025.

Sincerely,  
Satish Upadhyayula  
Convenor, National Finals 2025



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JOHN CORNYN  
TEXAS



## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 1, 2025

### North South National Finals 2025

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the great State of Texas!

I am pleased to welcome you and your families to the 2025 National Finals hosted by the North South Foundation at The University of Texas at Dallas. For 33 years, the North South Foundation has provided scholarships, mentorship, and quality education, giving students the tools they need to reach their full potential.

As finalist, each of you has demonstrated "Championship Quality," and over the next few days, you have the opportunity to exercise the knowledge and skills you have gained. I am pleased to join your family and friends in commending each of you for advancing to the finals competition. I wish you all the best of luck these next few days, and I encourage you to continue pursuing excellence in the years to come.

Sincerely,

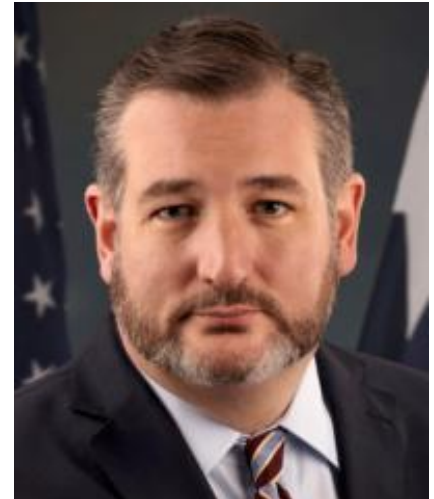
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Cornyn".

JOHN CORNYN  
United States Senator





August 1, 2025



Dear National Finals Participants and Families,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 National Finals, hosted by the North South Foundation at the University of Texas at Dallas. This event reflects a shared commitment to educational opportunity, achievement, and the values that unite communities across the country. As Senator of the great State of Texas, I am proud to see this event taking place here in a region where academic excellence and community spirit run deep. For more than three decades, the North South Foundation has worked to bridge the gap between talent and opportunity. This mission is sustained by the growing dedication of volunteers, families, and communities across the Nation. The students participating in this year's National Finals represent the promise of tomorrow. Their discipline, curiosity, and drive will serve them well in the years ahead. Thank you to the families and volunteers who make this journey possible, and best wishes to all participants as they rise to meet this exciting challenge.

Sincerely,

Ted Cruz  
United States Senator



**JASMINE CROCKETT**  
30<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, TEXAS

VICE RANKING MEMBER  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND  
GOVERNMENT REFORM

RANKING MEMBER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
THE JUDICIARY



**Congress of the United States**  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1616 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-8885

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
1825 MARKET CENTER BOULEVARD #440  
DALLAS, TX 75207  
(214) 922-885

August 1, 2025

Dear North South Foundation National Finals Participants,

I am pleased to welcome you all to the city of Dallas! It brings me great joy to congratulate each student for qualifying for the 2025 National Finals of the North South Foundation at the University of Texas at Dallas.

The North South Foundation has fostered the next generations of future Indian American leaders and innovators. By bridging the gap between opportunity and talent, the North South Foundation empowers students beyond the classroom, paving a path of deserved achievement.

All the best to the participating students this weekend. I hope the memories and experiences gained from the 2025 National Finals add to your continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Crockett', with a large loop at the end.

Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



June 13, 2025

*Mayor*  
**Amir Omar**

Dear Participants and Guests of the North South Foundation National Finals,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Richardson, Texas for the North South Foundation's 2025 National Finals hosted by the University of Texas at Dallas.

Over the next three days, the City of Richardson is proud to host over 1,300 children from across the nation, along with their families, for this exciting scholarship competition.

The City Council is honored that the Foundation has chosen our community to host you all this weekend. For over 33 years, the North South Foundation has empowered students in the U.S. and India through scholarships and educational support, helping them achieve academic goals and build brighter futures. I commend your commitment to our next generation, and the City of Richardson proudly stands with you in this mission to invest in tomorrow's leaders.

To the participants, I congratulate you on your hard work and perseverance. I have no doubt you will achieve great things for our nation, state, and world. To all our guests, I hope you enjoy your time in Richardson and the great state of Texas.

Sincerely,

Amir Omar  
Mayor



P.O. Box 830309  
Richardson, TX  
75083-0309  
972-744-4203  
[amir.omar@cor.gov](mailto:amir.omar@cor.gov)  
[www.cor.net](http://www.cor.net)





August 1, 2025

North South Foundation  
332 S Michigan Avenue, LL N602  
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear National Finalists, parents, and friends:

On behalf of the City of Coppell and the Coppell City Council, I am honored to welcome you to the state of Texas for the 2025 National Finals! It is a great achievement to make it to this stage, and your dedication to academic excellence is truly impressive.

Like you, the City of Coppell, nestled between Dallas and Fort Worth, is committed to continuous learning and development, and one of the resounding elements of our resident-driven Vision 2040 strategic plan is the idea of perpetuating a learning environment. We strive to foster a knowledge-sharing community, where diverse learning and enrichment opportunities abound, and I'm honored that this year's competition brings you to our area. Your participation in programs and competitions like this, and the relationships you build along the way, will be invaluable to your success. I am excited to see what you will accomplish in the future!

Congratulations on your achievements to date, good luck, and enjoy your time in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex!

Sincerely,

Wes Mays  
Mayor, City of Coppell

---

COPPELL CITY COUNCIL

---

255 PARKWAY BOULEVARD □ P.O. BOX 9478 □ COPPELL, TX 75019 □ 972-462-0022 □ [COPPELLTX.GOV](http://COPPELLTX.GOV)



City of Plano  
1520 K Avenue  
Plano, TX 75074

P.O. Box 860358  
Plano, TX 75086-0358  
Tel: 972-941-7000  
Plano.gov

June 27, 2025

Dear Participants of the North South Foundations National Finals:

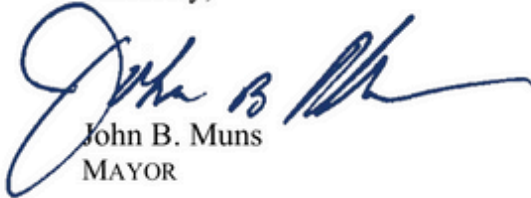
On behalf of the City of Plano, welcome to the University of Texas at Dallas for the 2025 North South Foundation National Finals!

My fellow Council Members and I would like to congratulate you and commend you for partaking in this remarkable opportunity. We recognize the enormous time and effort you have personally invested in preparing for this competition. Your overall experience will help you strive for academic excellence while making lasting memories with your peers to cherish for a lifetime.

I want to also take this opportunity to personally invite you and your family to visit Plano during your stay. We have countless dining, shopping, recreational and cultural art options to suit a wide variety of preferences that I think you will also enjoy. Please go to [www.visitplano.com](http://www.visitplano.com) for additional helpful information on all Plano has to offer throughout the year.

In closing, I extend my best wishes to all participants and sincerely hope you will consider coming back to Plano again and again in the future for fun, for your career and as a place to call home!

Sincerely,



John B. Muns  
MAYOR



## CEO's Message

Dear Finalists, Parents, Volunteers and Well Wishers:

Another year is upon us, and the 2025 NorthSouth Finals are finally here, and YOU are a part of it all. Congratulations!

You've booked your tickets, you've come together to study, you've finally made it...all with the hopes of doing well and perhaps even taking home a shiny NorthSouth trophy. Some people think of this weekend as a competition. Others think of it as a bunch of smart kids getting together. But for us at NorthSouth, we believe this weekend represents so much more.

When our volunteers come together to support a child's education - be it through a regional contest, coaching, Learning Journey activities, a workshop, a prep club, a webinar, or a Young Changemakers event - they aren't just sharing technical expertise.

You can get technical expertise in many places. What you get here is notably deeper, and different.

What we're supporting are the 4 E's: Excellence, Education, Empathy, and social Entrepreneurship. In other words, everything we do is about empowering our children. We do this intentionally, by giving them educational access, providing them confidence to excel in all that they do, instilling a sense of empathy for those less fortunate, and developing the skills needed for long-term social entrepreneurship.

When we do it right, we don't just support smart kids, we develop smart kids who want to give back, and change the world for the rest of their lives.

None of this happened by accident. It happened through vision and intention. Over 30 years ago, Dr. Murali Gavini had an idea to hold our very first year of contests, and he worked with Dr. Ratnam Chitturi to make it happen. As a 1st year medical student in 1993, I had a front row seat at our first National Finals, supporting our NorthSouth National Spelling Bee as the pronouncer. Dr. Gavini knew that if we brought people together, they'd push each other to be better, and the associated revenue could be used for Good. Dr. Chitturi's persistence and determination helped the Foundation scale from there. One could describe the 1-2 punch of Gavini-Chitturi as Sankalpa. A Sankalpa is a powerful intention or resolve that guides us toward our most authentic selves.

In many ways, that resolve and that guidance are exactly what this weekend is all about. As you celebrate this weekend, please keep the 4 E's in mind. Observe the 4 E's, respect the 4 E's, and do your best to pass on the spirit of why NorthSouth exists, and why we do what we do.

Our purpose is our passion. Thanks for being a part of it!

All the best,  
Balu Natarajan, M.D.  
Volunteer CEO  
North South Foundation USA

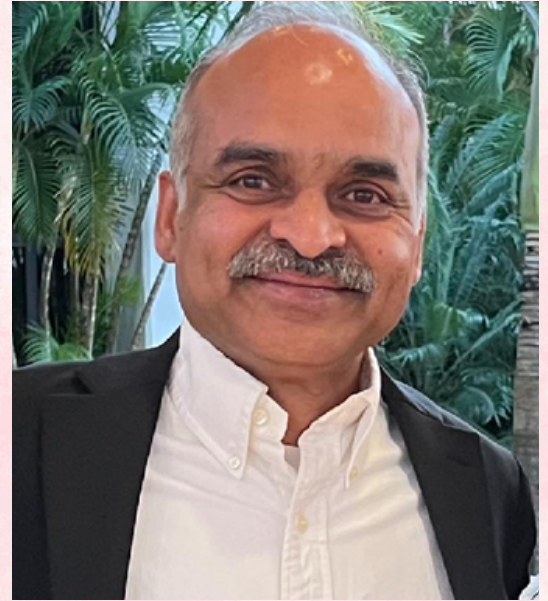




## Letter From The Contest Chair

North South Foundation promotes equitable access to education and encourages the pursuit of academic excellence by fostering a community that supports and challenges one another. The contests at NorthSouth are tailored to all educational pathways to provide a diversified experience to all those who participate, volunteer, and even spectate. While competition traditionally promotes discipline and responsibility, here at NorthSouth, competition is rooted in harmony where we learn and evolve from one another as a community and uplift each other to new heights.

-Tirumala Chengalasetty  
Contest Chair



- Disha Harish Jadav, 4<sup>th</sup> grade



## From the Editor's Desk: Thank You for Being Part of the Journey

Dear NorthSouth Family,

Congratulations on making it to the Finals!

If this is your first time, I understand you might feel a little apprehensive, but rest assured, this will be an enjoyable and enriching journey. Along the way, you will learn, grow, and be inspired. Simply being part of the atmosphere, surrounded by passionate competitors and dedicated volunteers is a reward in itself. Just by stepping into this experience, you've already achieved something remarkable.



I began my own journey 12 years ago as a parent. What initially drew me in was the unique model where our registration fees help fund scholarships back in India. Since then, both my children have participated in contests of their choice every year. It wasn't about winning each time. It was about growing, learning, and improving with every experience. We have always believed that the only person you truly need to compete with is yourself. At first, traveling to Nationals felt daunting. I often wondered whether the cost and effort were worth it. But over time, I came to realize that you can't put a price on the kind of exposure and experiences that shape a young child's mind, especially those that come from visiting universities and connecting with driven peers.

When I was first asked to volunteer, my immediate response was, "I'm too busy! I am a mother of two." But once I started volunteering, I genuinely enjoyed it. I found that when you love what you're doing, you make time. Life somehow adjusts, things fall into place, and the journey becomes smoother than you expected.

I feel incredibly grateful to have taken on the role of Bee Book Editor. Reading the articles submitted by contestants and volunteers gave me a window into their journeys. Through this, I witnessed immense talent, creativity, passion, and a deep spirit of service among the contestants and our youth and adult volunteers.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to two talented and dedicated young minds, Harshil Garg and Harsha Gaddipati, for their unwavering support and prompt assistance throughout the process. A big thank you to Jeffrey Du, Sri Kowtha, Madeline Nie, Ritu Sivakumar, Gunvansh Thummala, and Ajay Paul for working seamlessly together as a team. A special note of appreciation goes to Rachana Kowtha, Visa Meyyappan, and Tirumala C for always being the backbone of this effort.

Welcome to NorthSouth's community - full of energy, passion, and purpose. I hope this experience becomes as meaningful for you as it has been for me. May it inspire you to learn, volunteer, and continue growing in ways you never imagined.

Warm regards,  
Arati Jhaveri  
Chief Editor, Dallas Finals Bee Book 2025



# *North South Foundation*

## – THE STORY OF SCHOLARSHIPS

-Sai Rachakonda

NorthSouth Scholarships US-India Liason



Isn't it remarkable when a renowned cardiologist of Indian origin, now living and practicing in the United States, shares how deeply grateful he is to the North South Foundation (known as NSF in India and NorthSouth in the U.S.) for the scholarship he received during his medical studies in India? He says it made all the difference in helping him reach where he is today.

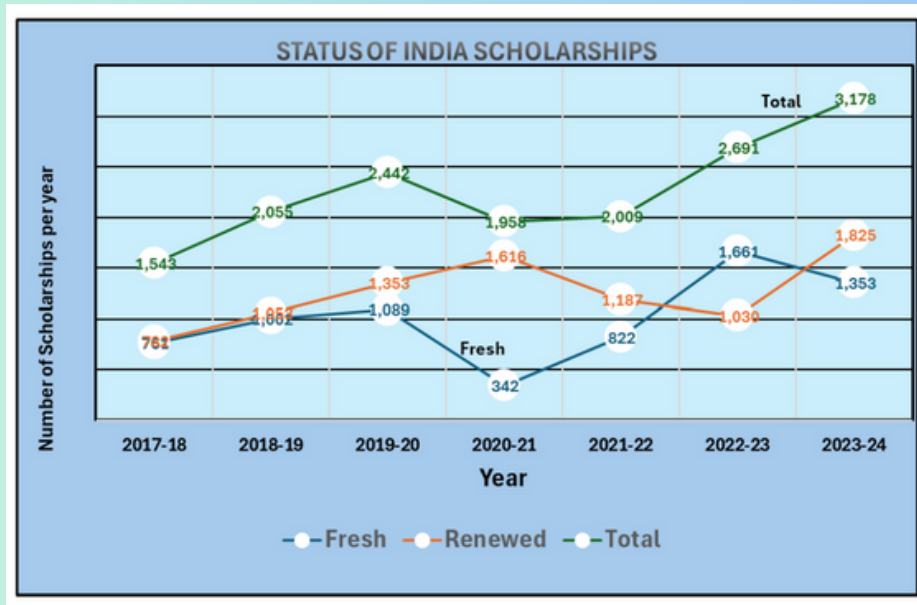
Isn't it amazing to know that an NSF scholarship recipient, having been inspired by Dr. Chitturi, a Gandhian and visionary, who founded the organization of North South Foundation in 1989, started his own charity in similar lines?

It is no more surprising when more than 600 alumni have readily showed interest to volunteer for the foundation to help new scholarship recipients. The uniqueness of NorthSouth is that it raises funds for these scholarships by conducting educational contests and by offering coaching classes in various subjects for children in the USA in addition to raising funds through donations. The funds are utilized to primarily provide scholarships to children in India besides other educational activities and leadership development programs benefiting the high school of various schools in India.

North South Foundation provides scholarships to undergraduate students entering into Engineering (both fresh and lateral entry), 3-year polytechnic (diploma in engineering), Medicine including Dental, Nursing, Pharmacy, Agriculture, and Architecture, based on merit and financial need. North South Foundation uses uniform eligibility criteria to identify meritorious students across more than 30 chapters set up all over India. It has distributed close to **35,000 scholarships** to students who needed financial support to pursue their studies in their chosen fields. Yearly scholarships reached a peak of 2,452 in 2019-20. Pandemic slowed the process due to our inability to reach new students entering colleges. However, during 2023-24, once again the scholarships rose to 3,400. The scholarship is an annual award and not a one-time payment. The student is eligible for the scholarship until graduation if he/she maintains high academic standards. The local chapters in various states in India do the commendable job of spreading the word by inviting applications from students, screening these applications and selecting the neediest group of students who eventually become North South Foundation scholarship recipients.

Currently, there are several active chapters in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Telangana, Bihar and Assam. North South Foundation India team (NSF India) runs the execution of the scholarship implementation process. Each chapter in India is led by a volunteer Chapter Coordinator (ICC).

Few chapters in India have corresponding Liaison team members in the US who monitor and ensure smooth running of the process by coordinating with their respective ICCs.



**NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS DISTRIBUTED SINCE 2017**

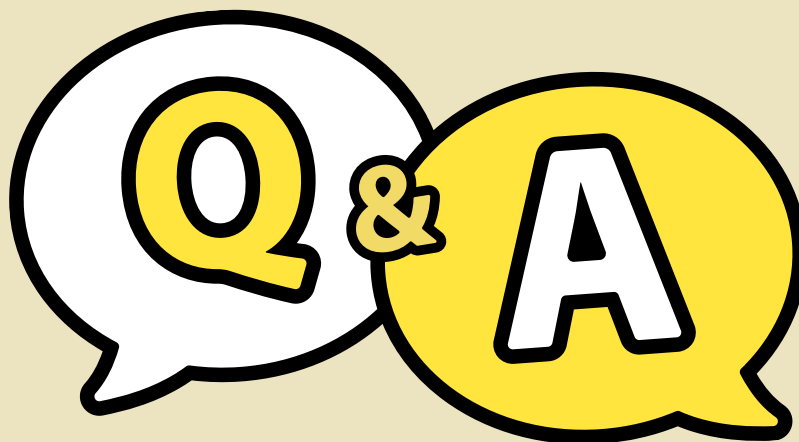
Starting in 2024–25, NSF India launched Skill Enhancement Programs to build soft and job-related skills. The pilot, focused on soft skills for select 3rd- and 4th-year engineering scholars, received highly positive feedback, with plans to expand to other disciplines. Another key initiative is building a strong and engaged alumni network. So far, about 650 former scholarship recipients—now successful professionals in India and the U.S.—have responded enthusiastically. They are eager to give back through mentorship, skill development programs, and creating employment opportunities for current NSF scholars. With their passion and technological expertise, this alumni group has the potential to make a significant impact on the next generation.

Here are some opportunities for you to be able to participate as part of NorthSouth Family:

- Help open new chapters in the North India in states like UP, Bihar, MP, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Northeastern states where NorthSouth likes to expand the footprint.
- Become a US liaison with an India chapter, either existing or new.
- Donate directly for the scholarships through [northsouth.org](http://northsouth.org).



**Distribution of checks to Engineering students in Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh, India**



WITH FAIZAN ZAKI  
2025 SCRIPPS SPELLING BEE CHAMPION

**? DO YOU EVER GET FRUSTRATED DOING THE SAME KIND OF STUDYING EVERY DAY?**

★ ★  
“I NEVER GET FRUSTRATED – I’M ALWAYS LEARNING NEW WORDS, SO IT’S ALWAYS FUN!”

**? WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO STICK WITH IT FOR SEVERAL YEARS?**

★ ★  
“I THINK THE DRIVE TO WIN AND TO DO MY BEST MOTIVATED ME THE MOST, AS I ALWAYS STRIVED TO GET BETTER AND PERFORM BETTER.”

**? WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BEGIN THIS JOURNEY?**

★ ★  
“MY FIRST EVER EXPOSURE TO THE BEE WAS WHEN I SAW KARTHIK NEMMANI HOLDING THE TROPHY IN 2018. THIS WAS MY MAIN INSPIRATION, AS I ASPIRED TO DO THE SAME WHEN I WAS OLDER”

**? HOW CONSISTENT WAS YOUR PREPARATION DURING SCHOOL VERSUS VACATION TIME?**

★ ★  
“I RARELY GOT TIME TO PREPARE DURING WEEKDAYS, SO I TRIED TO MAKE THE MOST OF MY WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS.”



# Q & A

WITH FAIZAN ZAKI  
2025 SCRIPPS SPELLING BEE CHAMPION



? **WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST  
PIECE OF ADVICE FOR AN  
ASPIRING SPELLER JUST  
STARTING OUT?**

★ ★  
“THE BIGGEST PIECE OF ADVICE I  
COULD GIVE TO A BEGINNING  
SPELLER IS TO NEVER GIVE UP,  
BECAUSE I NEVER GAVE UP AND IT  
ENDED UP WORKING OUT FOR ME.”

? **HOW DID YOU MANAGE  
YOUR TIME TO MAXIMIZE  
STUDY EFFICIENCY WHILE  
KEEPING UP WITH  
SCHOOLWORK?**

★ ★  
“I MADE DAILY SCHEDULES AND  
CHECKLISTS TO TRACK THE  
AMOUNT OF SPELLING I DID AND  
THE SCHOOLWORK I NEEDED TO  
COMPLETE FOR THE DAY”

? **YOU ALWAYS LOOK SO  
CONFIDENT ON STAGE! BUT  
WHAT’S YOUR STRATEGY  
WHEN YOU HEAR A WORD YOU  
DON’T RECOGNIZE?**

★ ★  
“WHEN I HEAR A WORD I DON’T RECOGNIZE, I  
TRY TO THINK OF ALL THE POSSIBLE  
SPELLINGS IT COULD BE AND ELIMINATE ANY  
OPTIONS THAT DON’T FOLLOW LANGUAGE  
PATTERNS OR OPTIONS THAT SIMPLY DON’T  
LOOK CORRECT.”

? **TELL US ABOUT ONE  
MAJOR COMPETITION  
YOU PREPARED FOR.  
WHAT WERE YOUR  
KEY TAKEAWAYS?**

★ ★  
“I PREPARED A LOT FOR NORTHSOUTH SSB  
NATIONALS IN 2024, YET I GOT SECOND.  
ONE OF MY KEY TAKEAWAYS THAT I GOT  
OUT OF THAT BEE WAS THAT EVEN WHEN  
YOU GET SO CLOSE, YOU SHOULDN’T GIVE  
UP AND YOU NEED TO KEEP GOING.”



# Junior Spelling Bee



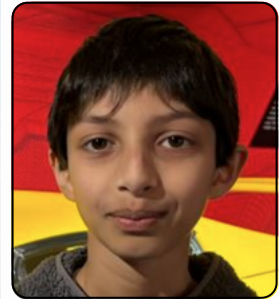
**Aadhya Kandregula**  
Ashburn, VA



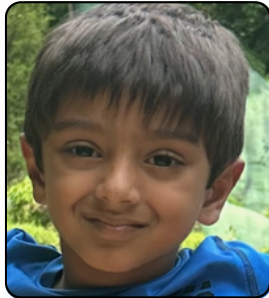
**Aathith Sivasamy**  
Buffalo Grove, IL



**Abhinav Nanda**  
Katy, TX



**Akshaj Prasad**  
Aldie, VA



**Anish Sista**  
Perrysburg, OH



**Aravind Nambudiri**  
Newton, MA



**Arjun Narayan**  
Short Hills, NJ



**Arjun Paladugu**  
Tampa, FL



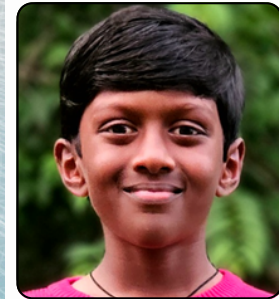
**Ashvik Chintanaboina**  
San Jose, CA



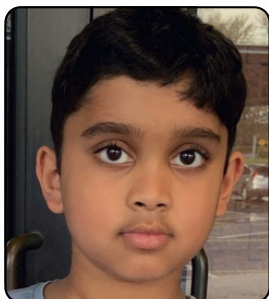
**Ashwanth Kannan**  
Frisco, TX



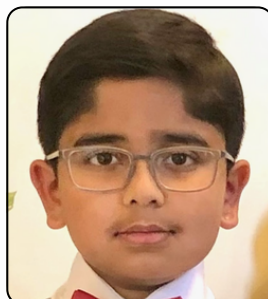
**Atharv Joshi**  
Lewis Center, OH



**Atul Vallamkonda**  
Frankfort, KY



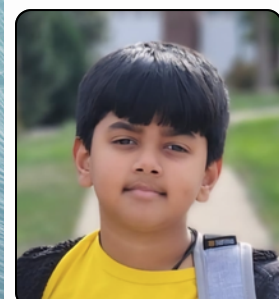
**Avyukth Garimella**  
Monroe Township, NJ



**Darshan Dudda**  
Voorhees, NJ



**Dhriti Kudumula**  
Brentwood, CA



**Dhruv Palepu**  
Bettendorf, IA



# Junior Spelling Bee



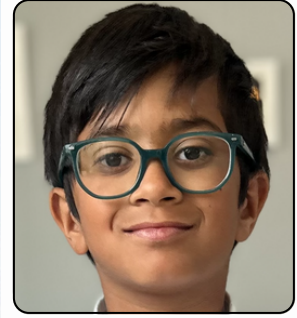
**Divyaansh Maruboyina**  
Shrewsbury, MA



**Evanshi Kumar**  
Louisville, KY



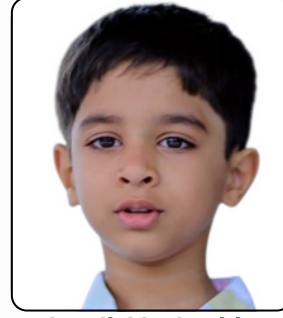
**Hridhaan Patel**  
Bentonville, AR



**Ishayu Machiraju**  
Belmont, CA



**Jai Vemuri**  
Milton, GA



**Jasvik Vasireddy**  
Simpsonville, SC



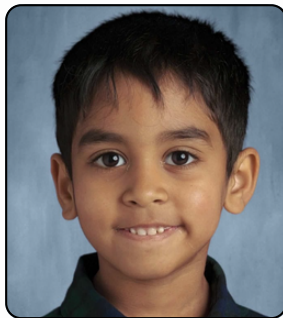
**Kaveer Naik**  
Jacksonville, FL



**Kavin Gowrishankar**  
Glen Allen, VA



**Kiara Rastogi**  
Morris Plains, NJ



**Krishiv Sankar**  
Indian Land, SC



**Laasya Mohan**  
Herndon, VA



**Meera Kumar**  
Fresno, CA



**Mia Sharma**  
Chaska, MN



**Misha Sanghavi**  
St Johns, FL



**Naren Logan**  
San Antonio, TX



**Neev Pandya**  
Chesterfield, NJ



# Junior Spelling Bee



**Neil Ajith**  
Virginia Beach, VA



**Nihira Nimmala**  
Allen, TX



**Nitara Desai**  
Edmond, OK



**Nivaan Shah**  
Austin, TX



**Piyush Ajay**  
Frederick, MD



**Prajwat Panda**  
Tampa, FL



**Prisha Devershetty**  
Fremont, CA



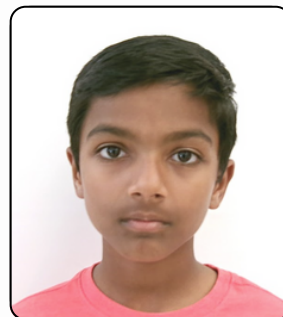
**Rayaana Kulkarni**  
Town and Country, MO



**Riaan Bichkar-Modak**  
Ann Arbor, MI



**Riaan Sharma**  
Chandler, AZ



**Ritwin Amarnath**  
Seffner, FL



**Rohan Kumar**  
Gibsonia, PA



**Ronik Saduneni**  
Waxhaw, NC



**Rudhav Lokhande**  
Hillsboro, OR



**Rudhvi Kosaraju**  
Frisco, TX



**Ryan Vikram**  
Frisco TX



# Junior Spelling Bee



**Saahir Bhandari**  
San Diego, CA



**Saanika Gowda**  
Plantation, FL



**Saharsh Nagrendra**  
Las Vegas, NV



**Sahasra Yadavali**  
San Diego, CA



**Samyukta Manian**  
Round Rock, TX



**Sanchana Srinivasan**  
Las Vegas, NV



**Sankarshan Ramanan**  
Coppell, TX



**Shreya Somani**  
Cumming, GA



**Siara Bisht**  
Campbell, CA



**Siniksha Chockalingam**  
San Antonio, TX



**Tanay Roy**  
New Berlin, WI



**Tara Yadav**  
Naperville, IL



**Tejosrikar Naga**  
Georgetown, TX



**Thanvik Neelamagam**  
Mountain House, CA



**Unnathi Devavarapu**  
San Marcos, CA



**Vanya Gupta**  
Charlotte, NC



# Junior Spelling Bee



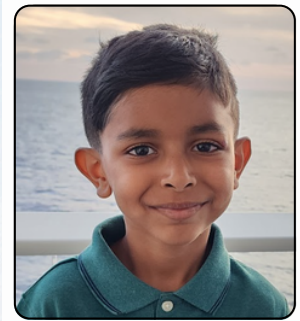
**Varsha Kannan**  
Copley, OH



**Navya Bhatia**  
Suwanee, GA



**Viaan Usgaonker**  
Dunlap, IL



**Vihaan Mahesh**  
Lewis Center, OH



**Vihaan Ram**  
Weston, FL



**Vihaan Sundeep**  
Fresno, CA



**Vivaan Jain**  
San Jose, CA



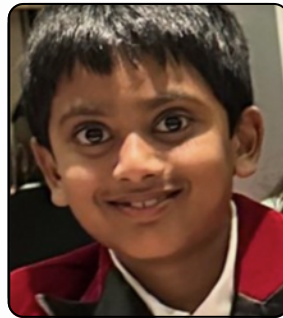
**Vivaan Ruparel**  
Houston, TX



**Yuvaan Deshpande**  
Beaverton, OR



**Yuvaan M**  
Piscataway, NJ



**Yuvan Dasari**  
Woodstock, GA



**Yuvan Nanu**  
Holly Springs, NC



**Yuvan Reddy**  
Princeton, NJ



**Anay Puri**  
Fremont, CA



**Anay Terwadkar**  
Peoria, AZ



**Arjun Meka**  
Overland Park, KS



# Junior Spelling Bee



**Ella Zhu**  
Beachwood, OH



**Hitarth Thakkar**  
Westfield, IN



**Insiya Zarawala**  
Glen Allen, VA



**Jivesh Ramesh Kumar**  
Cary, NC



**Kaira Jain**  
East Moline, IL



**Keshav Kumar**  
Dunlap, IL



**Krish Chandragiri**  
Alpharetta, GA



**Krishika Dinesh**  
Morganville, NJ



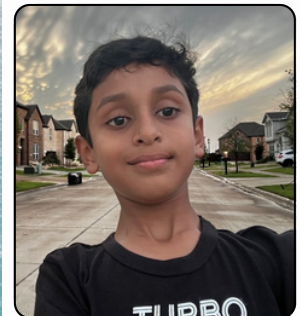
**Kushal Mummid**  
Bothell, WA



**Saadhana Santhosh**  
Allen, TX



**Samhita Chennamsetty**  
Yorktown, VA



**Santhosh Putnala**  
Frisco, TX

## NOT PICTURED

Aadya Madabhushanam  
Aarna Shrivastava  
Abhiram Mannava  
Anmol Gaudana  
Aryani Kari  
Ashvita Sivachidambaram  
Avni Sharma  
Vedasri Addanki

Nirva Gandhi  
Rishaan Basu  
Samridh Botla  
Shrey Bariki  
Shreyas Balla  
Sidharth Srinivasan  
Suhrith Iyengar  
Yuvaan Mohapatra  
Zahra Shaikh



# LESSONS FROM MY JOURNEY WITH NORTH SOUTH FOUNDATION

**Bruhat Soma, 2024 Scripps National Spelling Bee Winner**



I have been a part of North South Foundation for almost 7 years, whether it has been competing, volunteering, or even donating.

I first got introduced to NorthSouth in 2nd grade, when I participated in the Tampa regional chapter competition for spelling and math. It was there where my interest for spelling first sparked. Going up on stage and showing the audience my knowledge by tackling difficult words was a very fun experience for me. So was watching contestants my age from around the US at nationals spell difficult words. They were really hard, and the competition was very intense, but I surprised myself by being able to guess a lot of them. And this was like my epiphany moment. I realized that I had a really good chance at doing good in spelling, and that's when my spelling journey truly started. I gradually started studying day by day, and went through a lot of ups and downs along the way. Then, something great happened. After nearly 5 years of rigorous preparation, it all paid off when I won the 2024 Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Winning the bee was great. I got to go on numerous TV shows and interviews, and was able to meet so many highly accomplished people. In conclusion, let's just say the aftermath was one-of-a-kind, but I made sure to never forget how it all started. At a NorthSouth regional spelling bee in 2019. I realized that NorthSouth is helping so many people like me achieve their goals, and that's when I decided I wanted to be a part of this organization.

So, I decided to start volunteering. The summer after I won, I went to the 2024 NorthSouth Nationals in Milwaukee, and helped judge junior and senior spelling. Then, this year, I helped out at my regional chapter by judging senior spelling.

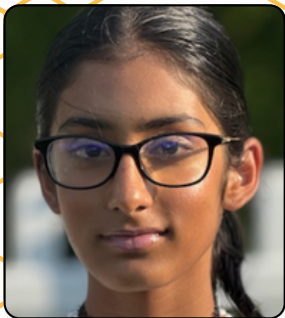
I have learned so much from my experience at NorthSouth and the spelling bee. So, cumulated here is a list of some of the most important qualities that I developed from all of this.

1. **Hard work.** This is a skill that is very important throughout your life, whether you are a kid studying for your next exam or an adult working at a rigorous job to make ends meet.
2. **Perseverance.** Whatever goals you set, you have to be determined to accomplish them no matter what. This is where perseverance comes in. Goals are important in life: otherwise, you won't be able to do whatever you want to in life.
3. **Confidence.** This is a skill I mainly gained from the spelling bee, as going up on stage in front of throngs of people requires a lot of courage and confidence. This skill will ultimately help you in job interviews, and will ensure you speak clearly and concisely.
4. **Kindness.** No matter what, being kind is something that really matters in the world. And, by volunteering at NorthSouth, I have learned the importance of giving back to my community. We should all try to make a good impact in the world, no matter how small it is.

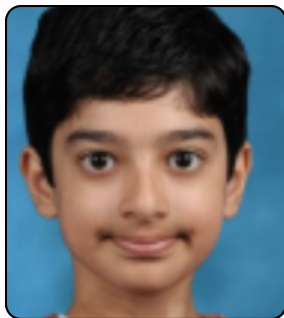
Thank you, and best of luck to all of the competitors!



# Senior Spelling Bee



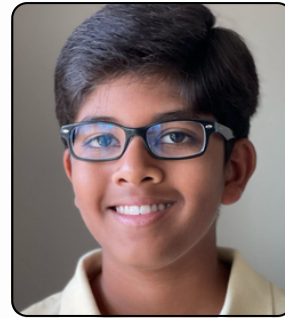
**Anjali Agarwal**  
Danville, PA



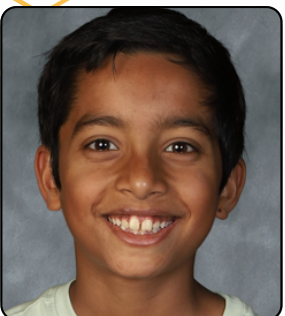
**Abhijay Ahuja**  
Plano, TX



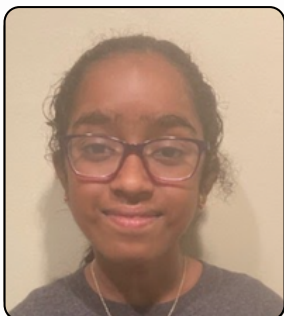
**Ayush Ajay**  
Frederick, MD



**Sach Akella**  
Apex, NC



**Samanvaya Aradhya**  
Fremont, CA



**Anusri Ashokraj**  
Chesterbrook, PA



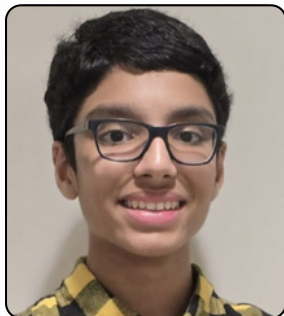
**Logan Bailey**  
Houston, TX



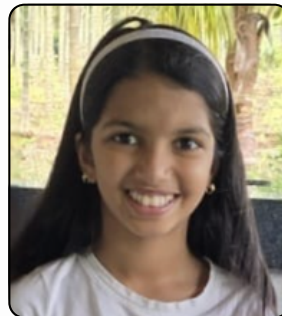
**Nikhil Balusubramanian**  
Bettendorf, IA



**Shresta Bheema**  
Round Rock, TX



**Rian Camty**  
Elkhorn, NE



**Richa Camty**  
Elkhorn, NE



**Avika Chandak**  
Olathe, KS



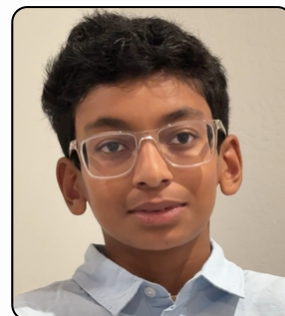
**Akshaj Chidananda**  
Bettendorf, IA



**Anvee Das**  
Mount Laurel, NJ



**Ishani Dasgupta**  
San Jose, CA



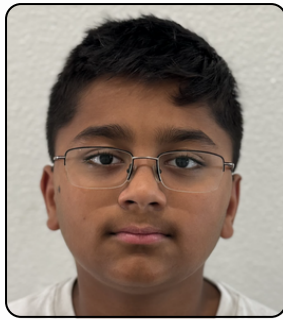
**Advait Duvvuru**  
Fremont, CA



# Senior Spelling Bee



**Omna Gandhi**  
Marietta, GA



**Parth Goel**  
Frisco, TX



**Holden Good**  
Cary, NC



**Shreyas Gullapalli**  
South Barrington, IL



**Hayden Hughes**  
Newtown, CT



**Violet Hughes**  
Newtown, CT



**Prateek Javali**  
Marysville, WA



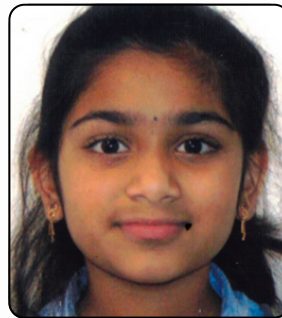
**Saathi Jayakumar**  
Redmond, WA



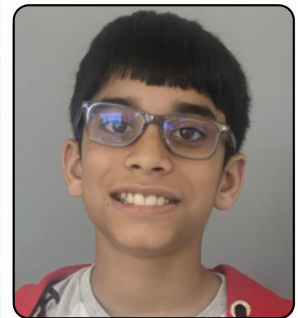
**Navika Joseph**  
Fremont, CA



**Anjali Kanitkar**  
Centennial, CO



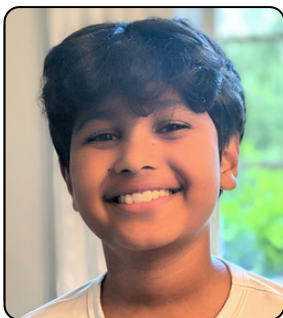
**Manvi Kolasani**  
Frisco, TX



**Mauryavardhanreddy Kudumula**  
Brentwood, CA



**Sumedh Kulkarni**  
Ashburn, VA



**Vir Lagad**  
Cypress, TX



**Sahil Lakhani**  
Tampa, FL



**Sreeya Lakkimsetti**  
Martinez, GA



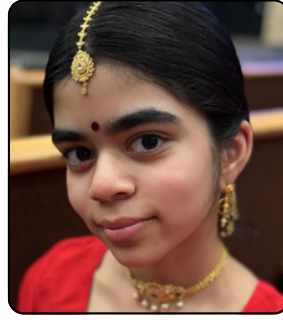
# Senior Spelling Bee



**Anika Manian**  
Round Rock, TX



**Aarhan Manish**  
Omaha, NE



**Amukta Mantha**  
Or, OR



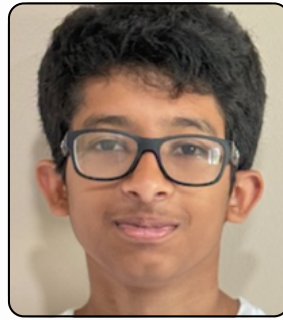
**Srivatsan Marimuthu**  
Acton, MA



**Moksh Maru**  
Sanford, FL



**Chirag Menon**  
Ramsey, NJ



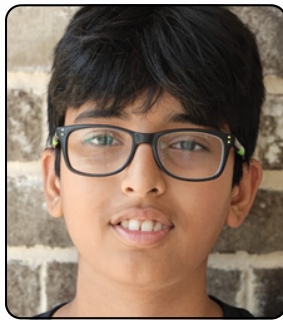
**Arjun Movva**  
Plainsboro Township, NJ



**Atharv Nagavarapu**  
Waukesha, WI



**Abhinav Nambudiri**  
Newton, MA



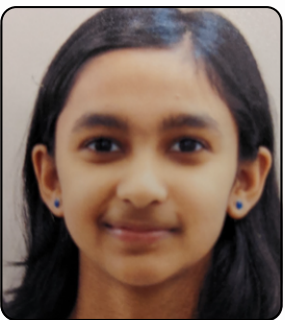
**Navin Natarajan**  
Marietta, GA



**Advaita Pawar**  
Irving, TX



**Vedhanshi Pitale**  
Mckinney, TX



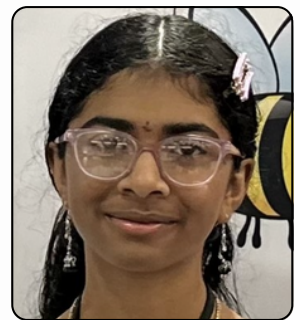
**Sanvi Porumalla**  
Coppell, TX



**Sritha Potluri**  
Allen, TX



**Ava Premkumar**  
Marietta, GA



**Niralya Pugazhendhi**  
Kansas City, KS



# Senior Spelling Bee



**Ayan Reddy**  
Newburgh, IN



**Vihan Roy**  
New Berlin, WI



**Shruthi Sathishkumar**  
Katy, TX



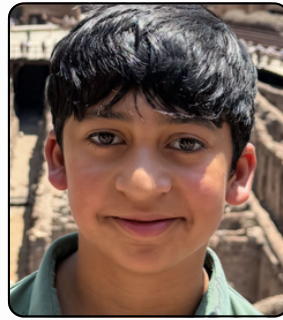
**Arjun Sengar**  
Round Rock, TX



**Tiana Shah**  
Austin, TX



**Srishti Sharath**  
Marietta, GA



**Shourya Sodhani**  
San Jose, CA



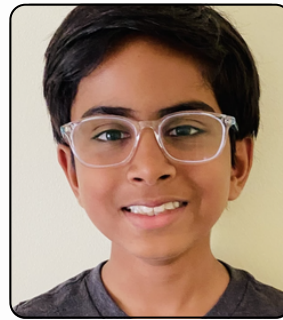
**Indra Sriram**  
Dallas, TX



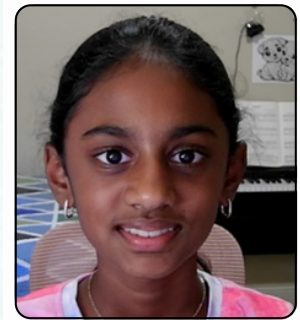
**Aarav Suresh**  
Prosper, TX



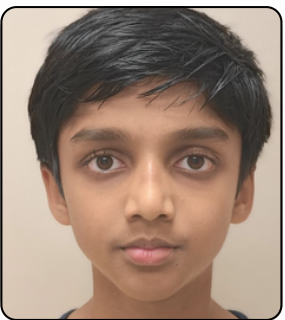
**Manvik Swamy**  
Cumming, GA



**Vikyath Tanamala**  
Leesburg, VA



**Akshara Thiyagarajan**  
Cumming, GA



**Sanil Thorat**  
Shreveport, LA



**Akshara Thummala**  
San Ramon, CA



**Mani Haasika Vanama**  
Livermore, CA



**Abhay Vemuri**  
Saratoga, CA



# Senior Spelling Bee



**Adarsh Venkannagari**  
Acton, MA



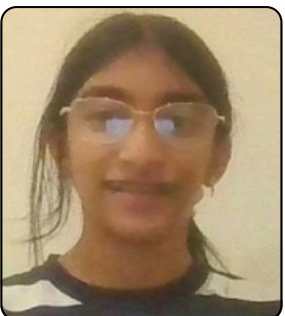
**Anandita Vyas**  
Henderson, NV



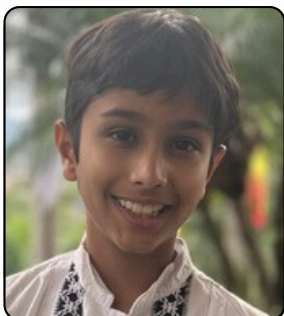
**Tej Yadav**  
Naperville, IL



**Aadyant Duvvuru**  
Fremont, CA



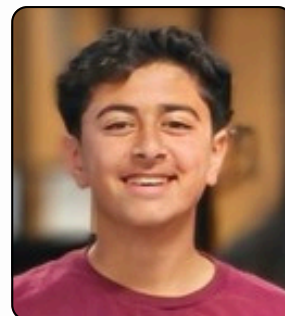
**Akshara Jagannathan**  
Monroe, NJ



**Neil Kashyap**  
Newark, CA



**Diya Kosaraju**  
Frisco, TX



**Avyan Malik**  
San Diego, CA



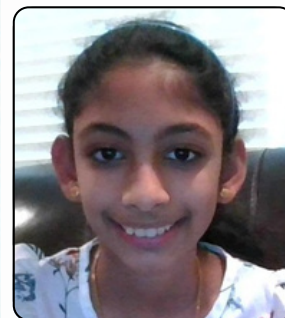
**Reya Manda**  
Lufkin, TX



**Dhriti Mensinkai**  
Louisville, KY



**Ishaan Nair**  
Irving, TX



**Dia Nitish**  
Concord, NC



**Riya Sasikumar**  
Ontario, OH



**Ananya Srivastava**  
Chesterfield, MO



**Ritam Talukder**  
Poughkeepsie, NY



# Senior Spelling Bee

## NOT PICTURED

Parnav Akkiraju  
Imran Allahwali  
Raven Amrhein  
Shrivedh Balasubramanian  
Jiya Bhavsar  
Purvik Byregowda  
Priyansh Choksi  
Paranika Ethakota  
Prudhvi Gandham  
Anwitha Kammarchedu Mathada  
Samhita Kapu

Lakshayaa Kaza  
Rushil Kelapure  
Varni Modi  
Shourya Mogulothu  
Aditi Mopur  
Sashwat Padhi  
Rananjay Parmar  
Vivaan Pawar  
Ayansh Sahu  
Siya Sampath  
Siddhan Saxena

Taahir Shaikh  
Sashwat Padhi  
Rananjay Parmar  
Vivaan Pawar  
Ayansh Sahu  
Siya Sampath  
Siddhan Saxena  
Taahir Shaikh  
Sree Vidya Siliveri  
Adhyut Siyalsh  
Sumukh Tirumalasetty  
Nithya Velineni

*NorthSouth helped me with many subjects that I used to have trouble in. It helps not only mentally but physically. It helped shape me into who I am today. It used to be an exercise for my brain, to help me get better at my subjects. Now it's something I want to do every single year. It helps me be more confident to speak out loud because of the vocabulary. It is a fun experience. I love it. And will be doing it until 12th grade.*

*If you try it I think you will like it! In 2024 I didn't do so good in my NorthSouth, my grades weren't so good, and I didn't get first, second, or third place like I thought I would, I did silly mistakes and I didn't do so good. But the next year came around, I didn't give up, I pushed myself, and I kept on training my brain to do it.*

*And I did it! I got first place in vocabulary, second place in an essay writing, I got third place in science and I got eighth place in math because I didn't do that good, but next year I know I'll do great in everything I do, because I'll try to do my best in everything and push myself and not give up.*

*I think you'll do great in NorthSouth if you try, and one day I think you'll like it as much as I do!*

-Maanvi,  
3rd Grade,  
Kentucky Country Day



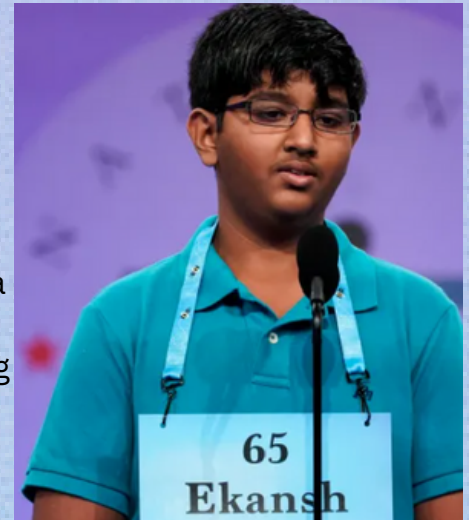
# Why Bother- Why Not?

## Why Bother–Why Not?

“Why do you care? Isn’t it, like, pointless after a bit? You’re just spelling words that you’re never going to use! Who says words like ‘auftakt’ and ‘bouillabaisse’ and ‘humuhumunukunukuapua’a’?”

“Why bother?”

It’s a chorus of comments I was all too used to: my friends, classmates, and peers could not understand why I did spelling—it’s a question they still bring up to this day. When I was in middle school during my days as a competitive speller, I received comments saying that studying spelling was “nerdy” or “boring.” In high school, little changed: in others’ minds, spelling was “useless” and “didn’t apply to high school.”



Little did they know, much like the science olympiads and math festivals and quiz bowls they competed in, spelling (and other bees) had immense value. For them, the mention of mouthwatering cash prizes and shiny trophies were enough to keep their questions at bay, but for me, and many others, there was so much more to offer.

It may sound cliché, but there is more to spelling than what meets the eye. Behind every word is a celebration of culture, history, and linguistic tradition. Behind every speller is hours of learning, exploration, and sheer dedication to their craft. And behind either of these are a myriad of hidden skills. Almost everything a speller does correlates to their lives beyond the microphone!

Learning to break words into their constituent roots to spell them correctly translates to analytical thinking and problem-solving skills that empower students to solve complex mathematics and physics problems. Setting aside time to study while balancing social lives and schoolwork develops time management and discipline—two skills worth their weight in gold in today’s fast-paced, demanding society. Working their way letter-by-letter through unfamiliar words as dozens of cameras, hundreds of lights, and thousands of eyes bear down on them simultaneously builds the ability to stay calm and composed under pressure. Imagine if my friends knew this!

For a minute, let’s be real—5th-grade me wasn’t thinking of “time management” or “analytical thinking” or “composure” when I became aggressively attached to spelling. My parents had instilled in me that passion has value, even if it’s not practical by others’ definitions. There is an intangible reward in immersing yourself in something you love and learning for the sake of learning. I loved spelling because of the historical rabbit holes words like “Plantagenet” and “Napoleonic” led me down. This exploration even led me to the topic of my Extended Essay as I complete my requirements for my IB Diploma: investigating the impact of Norman invaders on the development of English legal terminology. To be honest, I even caught myself for a second believing what my friends had said; now I realize that such “trivial” contests have profound meaning. Passionately pursuing anything, whether it’s spelling or stamp-collecting, has immense value, and you shouldn’t for a second let anyone tell you otherwise. I was frequently told that “spelling is only about memorizing words.”



In fact, a speller's career is just as much about memorizing words as Sachin Tendulkar's career was about playing straight drives in the nets!

Another one of my peers' grievances was that "spelling couldn't be used anywhere else." However, this could not be farther from the truth. Spelling is not bound to the covers of the dictionary. If you care to look, you will find spelling everywhere, and you do not even need to try looking to find where spelling experience becomes useful. To list a couple of basic uses: proofreading assignments for AP English, learning French vocabulary for French III, and being the "walking dictionary" in the friend group whom everyone calls on at 3AM to find the word they needed for their book report.

Like many spellers before me, and many more spellers after, spelling has opened many proverbial doors. The North South Foundation has played a huge role in that! Nearly immediately after I finished competing I signed up to volunteer in PrepClub and Learning Journey courses. I taught students in grades K-8 how to master spelling and prepare for spelling bees, and I felt that I learned as much as the students I was so privileged to teach. I learned to turn my passions into opportunities to create change and help my community. I learned to express ideas and convey knowledge effectively and clearly. I learned to collaborate with others to solve problems and ensure that events run smoothly. I even got to witness the next generation of spelling, vocab, and geography bee whizzes while volunteering in Regional contests last year!

It doesn't stop there, however. I've always been fascinated with the idea of entrepreneurship (clearly evident from my hundreds of watch hours on the Shark Tank YouTube channel), and I felt there was an opportunity to combine my love for spelling with my passion for entrepreneurship. From this melting pot of interests came Hive, a spelling app my brother and I created to help students study spelling in a smarter way. I found myself enjoying the many hours I spent writing content for the app, pouring my heart and soul into megabytes of lessons and articles explaining the ins and outs of spelling. I wanted to convey spelling as an art with intricacies and patterns, not a task completed with memorization. I found value in spelling in that it enabled me to pursue my later interests. Spelling gave me something to spring off of for ideas, a passion that I would carry with me in all of my endeavors. It opened doors for entrepreneurship and self-development, and none of it would be possible without the 4-years of spelling study and competition.

The questions my friends asked me stemmed from a core assumption, that only competitions which directly correlate to popular majors or career paths mattered. However, answering these questions requires one to redefine what "matters." Academic competitions, like the ones run by the North South Foundation, build future citizens who think critically, dare to explore, and challenge themselves. So no matter the bee, whether it's spelling bees, brain bees, or something else, if someone asks you "why bother," answer with your own query:

**"Why not?"**

-Ekansh Rastogi





# Junior Vocabulary Bee



**Arianna Agarwal**  
Danville, PA



**Aaratrika Agrawal**  
Portland, OR



**Mysha Ali**  
Maple Shade, NJ



**Aurelian Basu**  
Langrangeville, NY



**Ashvik Chintanboina**  
San Jose, CA



**Siniksha Chockalingam**  
San Antonio, TX



**Keshav Desai**  
Fairfax, VA



**Krishika Dinesh**  
Morganville, NJ



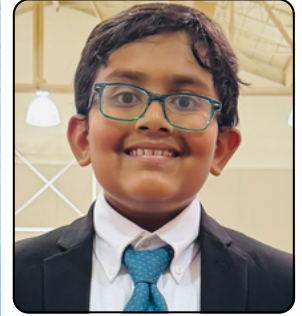
**Maanvi Gopal**  
Louisville, KY



**Maya Jacob**  
Plainsboro, NJ



**Aadhya Kandregula**  
Ashburn, VA



**Naren Logan**  
San Antonio, TX

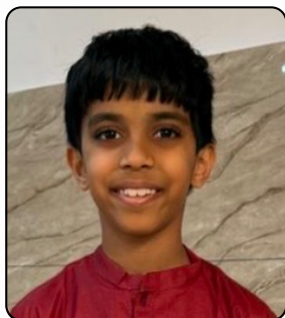




# Junior Vocabulary Bee



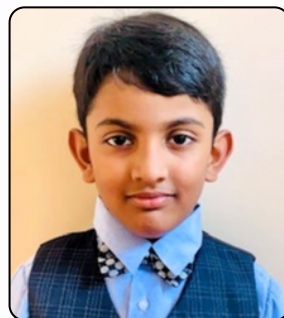
**Rudhav Lokhande**  
Hillsboro, OR



**Aadhi Maganti**  
Atlanta, GA



**Samardh Mantha**  
Wesley Chapel, FL



**Divaansh Maruboyina**  
Shrewsbury, MA



**Aravind Nambudiri**  
Newton, MA



**Arjun Narayan**  
Short Hills, NJ



**Sreenidhi Padala**  
Lutz, FL



**Dhruv Panicker**  
Nashua, NH



**Akshaj Prasad**  
Aldie, VA



**Sankarshan Ramanan**  
Coppell, TX



**Kiara Rastogi**  
Morrisplains, NJ



**Vivaan Ruparel**  
Sugarland, TX





# Junior Vocabulary Bee



**Mihira Sachin**  
Novi, MI



**Ronik Saduneni**  
Waxhaw, NC



**Amyra Saxena**  
Briarcliff Manor, NY



**Varish Sekar**  
Latham, NY



**Vardaan Sharma**  
Portland, OR



**Mishika Somani**  
St. Johns, FL



**Insiya Zaranwala**  
Glen Allen, VA



**Ella Zhu**  
Beachwood, OH

## NOT PICTURED

Shreyas Balla  
Rishaan Basu  
Anirudh Hariprasad  
Suhrith Iyengar  
Kana Kayali  
Rishikesh Kommera

Aadya Madabhushanam  
Aaradhya Murari  
Vivaan Pasumarth  
Kushagra Sikri  
Ashvita Sivachidambaram  
Sidharth Srinivasan



In the quiet hush of twilight's fall,  
The body surrenders, answered the call.  
Flesh, once vibrant, now rests in peace,  
While the soul, undaunted, finds its release.

The heartbeat slows, a final embrace,  
Life's fleeting moments, we gently trace.  
With each breath taken, a story unfolds,  
In the canvas of time, our legacy molds.

Bones may wither, and skin may fade,  
Yet the essence within is never betrayed.  
Like whispers of winds through the rustling trees,  
The spirit ascends, a soft, gentle breeze.

Through the veil of shadows, the soul takes flight,  
Guided by starlight in the stillness of night.  
No chains of this world can tether or bind,  
For what lies within is eternal, unlined.

Memories linger, as stars that ignite,  
In the hearts left behind, they shimmer so bright.  
Though bodies may crumble to dust and to ash,  
The soul dances on, in a timeless, sweet flash.

So fear not the journey, for it is not the end,  
In each heartbeat of love, the spirit transcends.  
With every farewell, a new path begins,  
As the soul moves on, where the light never dims.

# T H E S O U L

-By: Anika Pai





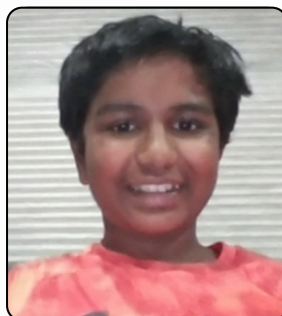
# Intermediate Vocabulary Bee



**Anjali Agarwal**  
Danville, PA



**Logan Bailey**  
Houston, TX



**Sahishn Bangor**  
Bridgewater, NJ



**Aditi Batchu**  
Ashbrun, VA



**Avika Chandak**  
Olathe, KS



**Prajnay Chavan**  
Morrisville, NC



**Agniv Das**  
San Marcos, CA



**Anvee Das**  
Mount Laurel, NJ



**Ishani Dasgupta**  
San Jose, CA



**Advait Duvvuru**  
Fremont, CA



**Omna Gandhi**  
Marietta, GA



**Dhiraj Garugu**  
Frisco, TX





# Intermediate Vocabulary Bee



**Hayden Hughes**  
Newtown, CT



**Violet Hughes**  
Newtown, CT



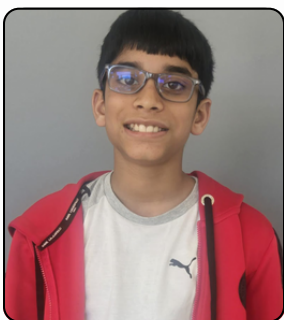
**Surabi Janakiraman**  
Buffalo Grove, IL



**Navika Joseph**  
Fremont, CA



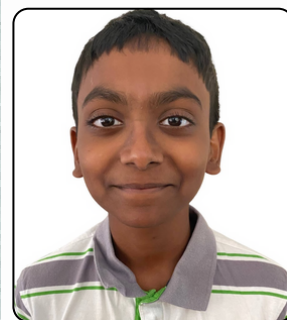
**Neil Kashyap**  
Newark, CA



**Mauryavardhanreddy Kudumula**  
Brentwood, CA



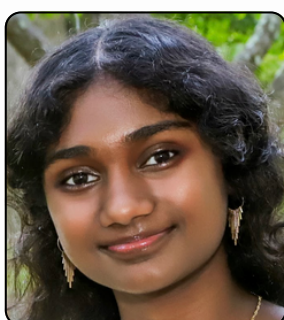
**Sumedh Kulkarni**  
Ashburn, VA



**Kavin Kumarappan**  
Jersey City, NJ



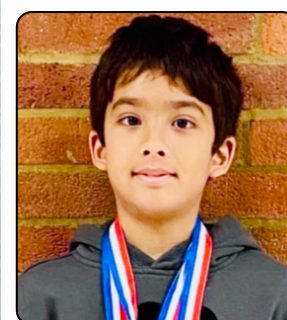
**Sahil Lakhani**  
Tampa, FL



**Samhitha Maddu**  
Decatur, GA



**Moksh Maru**  
Sanford, FL



**Vaibhav Menedal**  
Hershey, PA



# Intermediate Vocabulary Bee



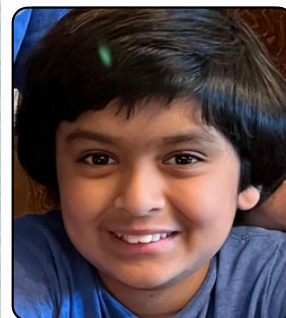
**Lakshmi Modak Muvvala**  
Coraopolis, PA



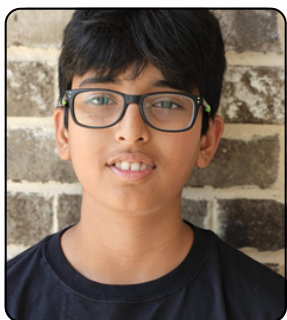
**Atharv Nagavarapu**  
Waukesha, WI



**Ishaan Nair**  
Irving, TX



**Abhinav Nambudiri**  
Newton, MA



**Navin Natarajan**  
Marietta, GA



**Advait Parikh**  
Bothell, WA



**Shrey Parikh**  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA



**Arushi Patra**  
Buffalo Grove, NH



**Advaita Pawar**  
Irving, TX



**Vedanshi Pitale**  
Mckinney, TX



**Sanvi Porumalla**  
Coppell, TX



**Sritha Potluri**  
Allen, TX





# Intermediate Vocabulary Bee



**Ava Premkumar**  
Marietta, GA



**Shruthi Sathishkumar**  
Katy, TX



**Shourya Sodhani**  
San Jose, CA



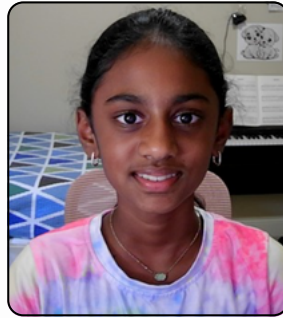
**Indra Sriram**  
Dallas, TX



**Yusra Syeda**  
San Ramon, CA



**Vikyath Tanamala**  
Leesburg, VA



**Akshara Thiyagarajan**  
Cumming, GA



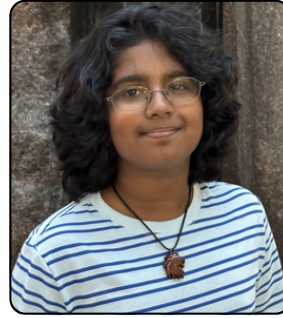
**Sanil Thorat**  
Shreveport, LA



**Akshara Thummala**  
San Ramon, CA



**Siddarth Vankadara**  
Brookhaven, GA



**Adarsh Venkannagari**  
Acton, MA



**Tej Yadav**  
Naperville, IL





# Intermediate Vocabulary Bee

## NOT PICTURED

Srividya Baskar  
Jiya Bhavsar  
Neel Busi  
Ekantika Chaudhuri  
Arudhra Deepak

Aadhithya Devarajan  
Prudhvi Gandham  
Aarini Gautam  
Lakshayaa Kaza  
Anirudh Kiran

Shilpa Kirshnan  
Devank Narayan  
Tvisha Nasarpuri  
Rananjay Parmar  
Vivaan Pawar

Abhi Ruddarraju  
Siya Sampath

## Cover Page Artist's corner

Hi all! My name is Kaveesh Balaji. I am honored for my cover art to be selected for the 2025 Bee Book! I'm currently a rising junior at Green Hope High School, and I'm thrilled to share the artwork I created for the North South Foundation!

This piece is extra special to me because it blends nostalgia with new beginnings. Growing up, my dad would take me to NorthSouth competitions, whether I was competing or just cheering others on, and the iconic bee logo always stuck with me. For this design, I wanted to honor that legacy while also highlighting the organization's fresh, inspiring vision. That's why I packed the bee with my signature doodle art style to help convey NorthSouth's mission—like uplifting communities, celebrating excellence and education, and embracing diversity (no matter background or identity). Additionally, I wanted to create NorthSouth's first hand-drawn cover, something personal that bridges its past and future in one bold, buzzing image.

As for the process, I'm a bit of a perfectionist when it comes to art—I spent around 16 hours sketching, refining, and tweaking everything from the color blends to the tiny details inside the bee. When I'm not doodling, you'll probably find me playing basketball, working out, or brainstorming for my next artwork. Art has always been my way of connecting with things I care about, and this piece is no exception. I hope it brings as much joy to others as it did for me to make!

I hope you enjoy!

Best,  
Kaveesh Balaji





## ONE STEP FORWARD, A STEP TO THE SIDE

Clock ticking, pages rustling, and printer whirring—the quiet sounds of the library surround me as I sit at a rickety table in the middle. With a notebook in front of me and pencils twirling in my hand, I'm ready to explain yet another concept to the students who need help.

Some students are like bright-eyed explorers, confident and eager, but sometimes need a guide to chart the course. Others, however, are borderline phobic about making mistakes like travelers lost in a dense fog, frozen by the pressure. They shy away from the guidance they need, instead preferring for the journey to be completed for them, passively waiting for the map to be drawn, not ready to make the effort themselves.

Every once in a while, I help a student named Sarah who can't hide her elation when she gets  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{4}$  right. But her mood plummets when she gets another one wrong. Her mechanical pencil squeaks on the paper as she crosses out answers that once felt certain, the weight of her disappointment visible in her slumped shoulders and the downward tilt of her head.

I see the frustration materialize on her forehead as her eyebrows scrunch, erasing any sign of celebration as she falls deeper into the pit of dejection.

We move from one problem to the next, and I notice how Sarah often hesitates when evaluating her calculations, doubting each step of her solution process. Her eyes flicker to the clock, as she prays for time to quicken its pace.

It's not just about the math problems: it's about the weight of expectation she puts on herself to be perfect at math. The more we work together, the more this pattern of perfectionism keeps her from truly seeing her potential.

Her expression shouts, "I can't do it," a self-deprecating mindset I used to have.

Sarah's struggles remind me more and more of my learning journey—the grueling conferences with my English teacher on an essay's clarity, the long hours of scouring YouTube for geometry videos, and the endless science questions that eventually made a small dent in improving my understanding of the rock and water cycles.

Tutoring students often reminds me that learning isn't a linear path; there are often detours—steps sideways from the squiggly line from which we are allowed to deviate. The process is saturated with moments of questioning yourself.

*What if I'm wrong about this?  
What if I missed something obvious?  
Should I just give up?  
Thud.*

A textbook falls from the table in front of us and pulls me from my thoughts, back to Sarah's work. Her pencil hangs loosely between her fingers as she wrestles with the equation, trying to make sense of the numbers in front of her. Her notebook is packed with scribbled equations she's trying to navigate, a reminder of the mental maze she's stuck in.



I offer an encouraging smile and point to a spot on her paper—a misplaced sign. I present an explanation of the concept and a sliver of hope lights up her eyes when she starts to connect the

dots like a lantern illuminating a pitch-black room.

She's able to work through her worksheet by taking the "Sign Rule" she learned and applying it to the next question. And the next.

And the next.

Before long, she finds herself at the end of her worksheet and our tutoring session. A week later, Sarah comes back in with a smile stretching across her face.

"I got a B on my retake!" she cries, pumping her fist in the air as if she's punching the D+ she originally had.

I give her a high-five as we sit down at the same rickety table and prepare to get busy with another worksheet. The first six questions are no match for her and her mechanical pencil—until question seven. A fractional exponents question.

Once again, I see the frustration materialize on her forehead, this time as beads of sweat, as she multiplied the exponents instead of adding and I mark a red X. I see her face sour and half-expect her to slump in her chair again.

But then she pauses. She takes a breath, and for the first time, she doesn't rush to violently erase her mistake. Instead, she looks at it.

"It's okay," she whispers to herself. "I can work on this." And just like that, she does.

We spend the rest of the hour immersed in focus: searching videos online, explaining the "Exponent Rule" to each other, and mining through the practice problems. And by the end Sarah once again has an even better understanding of the concept, completing the worksheet with the same smile that she walked in with.

Her initial frustration had given way to curiosity, and she began to explore the problems instead of dreading them. Sarah still has a long way to go, but she's no longer stuck in that pit of dejection. She learned to take her time, to allow herself space to be imperfect, and to ask for help when needed. She was starting to let go of the pressure, little by little.

*And that is the real victory.*

-Pihu Sahi

Incoming Senior from St. Joseph, Michigan

(NorthSouth Spelling and Vocabulary Participant)





# Math Bee

## Level 1



**Tamil Raja Alagujara**  
Henderson, NV



**Mysha Ali**  
Maple Shade, NJ



**Siddhi Arora**  
Hillsboro, OR



**Stuti Arora**  
Hillsboro, OR



**Pranav Balasubramanian**  
Sherwood, OR



**Aurelian Basu**  
Lagrangeville, NY



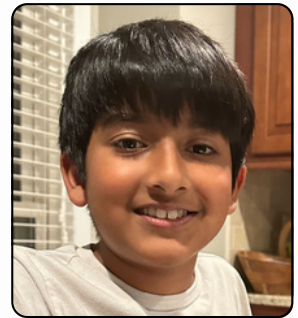
**Saahir Bhandari**  
San Diego, CA



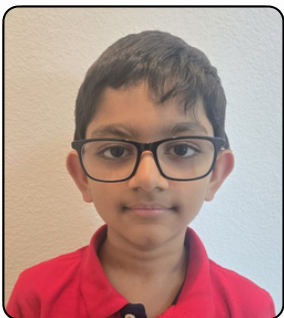
**Krivi Bhusarapu**  
Sugar Land, TX



**Riaan Bichkar-Modak**  
Ann Arbor, MI



**Mikul Bindal**  
Plainsboro, NJ



**Ruthvik Boddapu**  
Wylie, TX



**Arihaan Chaudhary**  
Naperville, IL



**Saahas Chakra Chidurala**  
Austin, TX



**Mikhail Deen**  
Harvey, ND



# Math Bee Level 1



**Keshav Desai**  
Fairfax, VA



**Prisha Devershetty**  
Fremont, CA



**Ahaan Dubal**  
Deerfield, IL



**Atharva Dubal**  
Deerfield, IL



**Darshan Dudda**  
Voorhees, NJ



**Nyvan Ganda**  
Westmont, IL



**Aurora Ghows**  
Austin, TX



**Reyansh Gupta**  
Princeton Junction, NJ



**Vanya Gupta**  
Charlotte, NC



**Jay Kamble**  
Topeka, KS



**Pravir KolarVinay**  
Evans, GA



**Vihaan Kothireddy**  
Little Elm, TX



**Riaan Kuppa**  
Irving, TX



**Naren Logan**  
San Antonio, TX



**Abhigna Maddi**  
Aurora, IL



**Rishabh Mahabhashyam**  
Irving, TX



# Math Bee Level 1



**Rishika Mahesh**  
Lewis Center, OH



**Avni Makhija**  
Martinez, GA



**Divaansh Maruboyina**  
Shrewsbury, MA



**Vikhyath Meruva**  
Leander, TX



**Anish Mishra**  
Georgetown, TX



**Kaveer Naik**  
Jacksonville, FL



**Abhinav Nanda**  
Katy, TX



**Arjun Narayan**  
Short Hills, NJ



**Arjun Paladugu**  
Tampa, FL



**Prajwat Panda**  
Tampa, FL



**Neev Pandya**  
Chesterfield, NJ



**Dhruv Panicker**  
Nashua, NH



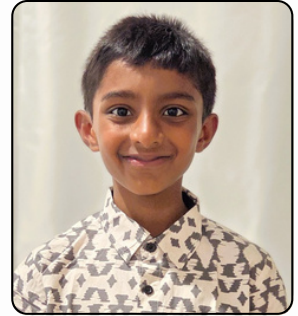
**Mihit Parmar**  
Cherry Hill, NJ



**Hridhaan Patel**  
Bentonville, AR



**Tanya Patel**  
North Andover, MA



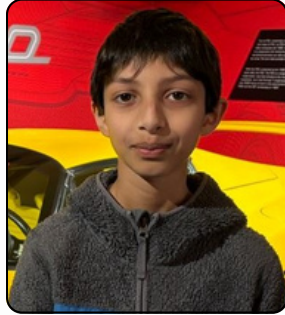
**Jaivik Reddy Penubolu**  
Newark, DE



# Math Bee Level 1



**Ishaan Pramod**  
Marlboro, NJ



**Akshaj Prasad**  
Aldie, VA



**Armaan Raavi**  
Cary, NC



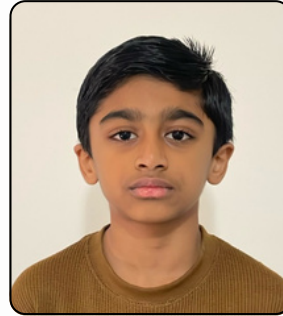
**Nayna Rajendran**  
Bakersfield, CA



**Adhvik Ranade**  
Portland, OR



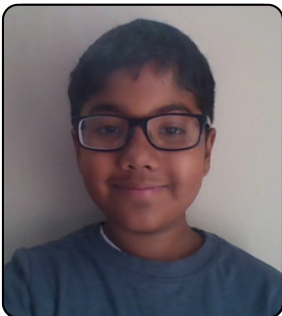
**Yuvan Reddy**  
Princeton, NJ



**Anuraghav Sasidharan**  
Plymouth Meeting, PA



**Nivaan Shah**  
Austin, TX



**Karthik Shanmugam**  
Bothell, WA



**Riaan Sharma**  
Chandler, AZ



**Vardaan Sharma**  
Portland, OR



**Risha Singh**  
Lincoln, NE



**Anish Sista**  
Perrysburg, OH



**Ander Sokoloski**  
Cedar Springs, MI



**Mishika Somani**  
St Johns, FL



**Sriiarush Vaddadi**  
Westborough, MA



# Math Bee Level 1



**Ananya Vallinayagam**  
Celina, TX



**Shriyan Vedaprakash**  
Sugar Land, TX



**Vivek Vempati**  
Fulshear, TX



**Adwaith Vijay Kumar**  
Cumming, GA



**Sahasra Yadavali**  
San Diego, CA



**Aaratrika Agrawal**  
Portland, OR



**Krishika Dinesh**  
Morganville, NJ



**Tejus Ganesan**  
Austin, TX



**Nainika Gundam**  
Ashburn, VA



**Suchir Iyer**  
Sammamish, WA



**Harsha Jakkepally**  
Delray Beach, FL



**Siddhartha Kothapalli**  
Hollis, NH



**Keshav Kumar**  
Dunlap, IL



**Yuvaan M**  
Piscataway, NJ



**Arjun Madamshetti**  
Middleburg Heights, OH



**Riaan Patolia**  
Oklahoma City, OK



# Math Bee Level 1



**Vivaan Ruparel**  
Sugarland, TX



**Sathvik Sivaraj**  
Reminderville, OH



**Samika Subramanian**  
Morrisville, NC



**George Vaughn**  
Beachwood, OH



**Hamsini Venkatesh**  
Beachwood, NH



**Santhosh Putnala**  
Frisco, TX



**Ella Zhu**  
Beachwood, OH

## NOT PICTURED

Dhanvith Arunkumar  
Siddhart Avasarala  
Ganesh Baskar  
Rishaan Basu  
Iraya Bidkar  
Eeshani Chaudhuri  
Shrian Chinnam  
Mivaan Gaddipati  
Anmol Gaudana  
Adyant Goswami  
Eli Greenwood

Aanya Hegde  
Suhrith Iyengar  
Viraat Jaju  
Shriyans Kalavakuru  
Hanvesh Kankanala  
Omar Karlath  
Kana Kayali  
Aadya Madabhushanam  
Sindhu Mandadapu

Sriheet Mitra  
Yuvaan Mohapatra  
Advith Padmanabhan  
Akshaya Perumal  
Havish Ramkumar  
Aayaan Sardana  
Nirrmanyu Sethi  
Rakshidhaa Sivamuthukumar  
Ashwadh Vemuri  
Jyotsna Vishnampet



# WHAT HAS COMPETING AT NORTHSOUTH TAUGHT YOU?

When I first joined NorthSouth, I thought it would be just like any other competition. But over time, it turned out to be much more than that. Being part of NorthSouth has taught me valuable life lessons that have helped shape who I am today. It's been an amazing journey—one that has helped me grow and inspired me in many different ways.

One of the most important lessons I've learned through NorthSouth is courage. It encouraged me to try new things, even when I felt nervous or unsure. For example, I used to be incredibly scared of speaking in front of a group. Many times, I would try, then stop halfway through because I was too afraid to continue. That changed when I participated in the NorthSouth public speaking contest. I realized that my speech didn't have to be perfect—I just had to try my best and believe in myself. Winning second place in that contest completely changed how I saw things. I understood that just one step of courage can lead us to achieve great things.

Another thing I really love about NorthSouth is hearing from other young achievers. The competitions often include inspiring talks by students who've accomplished incredible things. This year, I listened to an 8th grader share her journey of placing third at the Scripps National Spelling Bee. She talked about how her love for spelling started at NorthSouth and eventually became a part of her lifestyle and day-to-day activities. From her story and many others, I learned that it takes a lot of discipline and passion to achieve amazing results. I look forward to more of these sessions because they inspire me to be focused, dedicated, and committed to achieve more, and remind me what's possible with passion and persistence.

Finally, one of the biggest lessons NorthSouth taught me is the value of failure. I competed in the Math Bee for two years and didn't win either time. At first, I felt disappointed. But then I realized that each time I lost, I learned something new. I became more aware of my weak spots and worked on improving them. Failing also helped me approach problems differently and try new strategies. As I said in my public speaking speech this year, "The most important thing to try is to fail, because failure isn't the opposite of success—it's a part of the way to success."

NorthSouth has helped me grow not just as a student, but also as a person. It has taught me confidence, resilience, and the importance of learning from both success and failure. These are lessons I'll carry with me far beyond any contest, and I know they'll help me in many parts of my life.

-Naga Prerani Ishika Kasula  
6<sup>th</sup> Grader from Dorothy Hamm Public School  
Arlington, Virginia



# Math Bee

## Level 2



**Moksh Bafna**  
Peninsula, OH



**Logan Bailey**  
Houston, TX



**Arjun Banda**  
Leander, TX



**Tharun Bharath**  
Long Beach, CA



**Yoshitha Budida**  
Okemos, MI



**Richa Camty**  
Elkhorn, NE



**Aarnit Chinthakindi**  
Dublin, CA



**Anvee Das**  
Mount Laurel, NJ



**Ishani Dasgupta**  
San Jose, CA



**Surya Doddapaneni**  
Omaha, NE



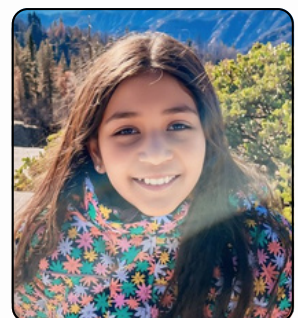
**Aayu Prasad Goudar**  
Wooster, OH



**Shreyas Gullapalli**  
South Barrington, IL



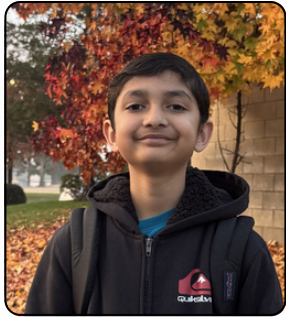
**Violet Hughes**  
Newtown, CT



**Nikita Iyer**  
Irvine, CA



# Math Bee Level 2



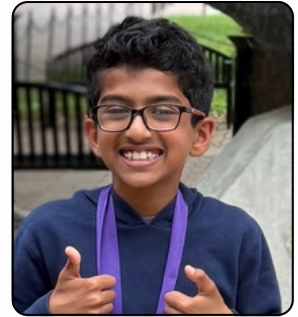
**Avyaan Jain**  
Bakersfield, CA



**Rohan Kamaraju**  
Cerritos, CA



**Aniv Karthikeyan**  
Irving, TX



**Dishant Kommireddy**  
Frisco, TX



**Shresta Kothireddy**  
Little Elm, TX



**Jihwan Lee**  
Albuquerque, NM



**Shaurya Lohia**  
Troy, MI



**Ranjiv Maddi**  
Elk Grove Village, IL



**Viyat Madhyastha**  
Cerritos, CA



**Shivesh Maheshwer**  
San Antonio, TX



**Aarhan Manish**  
Omaha, NE



**Moksh Maru**  
Sanford, FL



**Vaibhav Menedal**  
Hershey, PA



**Anwita Mishra**  
Overland Park, KS



**Anika Naik**  
Omaha, NE



**Tanoj Nallagatla**  
Celina, TX



# Math Bee Level 2



**Sreenaya Naveen**  
Robins, IA



**Narain Naveen Prabhu**  
Austin, TX



**Ayan Pai**  
Rockville, MD



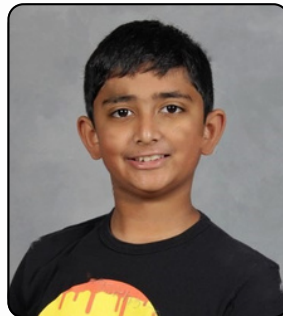
**Aditya Panga**  
Elkhorn, NE



**Vishwak Panga**  
Morrisville, NC



**Ava Premkumar**  
Marietta, GA



**Avvyukth Ram Sarann**  
Cumming, GA



**Arin Samanta**  
Charlotte, NC



**Anika Sathish**  
Spring, TX



**Rayan Singh**  
Lincoln, NE



**Arav Siruvole**  
Milpitas, CA



**Indra Sriram**  
Dallas, TX



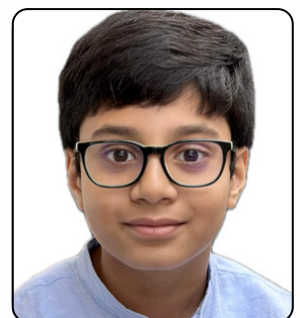
**Shreyas Sudarshan**  
Cary, NC



**Shaurya Tatineni**  
Sugar Land, TX



**Akshaj Therattil**  
Elkhorn, NE



**Shrihan Varanasi**  
Houston, TX



# Math Bee Level 2



**Abhay Vemuri**  
Saratoga, CA



**Nidharshana Vijay**  
Plano, TX



**Tohan Vinay Kumar**  
Louisville, KY



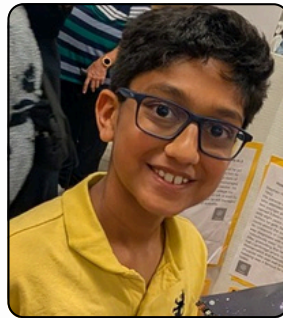
**Arav Vyemula**  
Everett, WA



**Tej Yadav**  
Naperville, IL



**Ananya Srivastava**  
Chesterfield, MO



**Akhil Devulapalli**  
Austin, TX



**Aadyant Duvvuru**  
Fremont, CA



**Aarush Edula**  
Mountain House, CA



**Madhavan Giridharan**  
Lexington, MA



**Atharv Gupta**  
Fremont, CA



**Sahasvath Indla**  
Aurora, IL



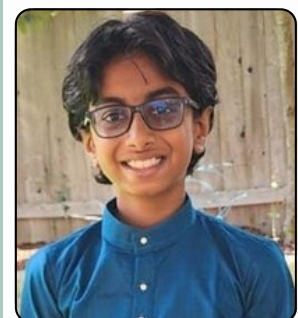
**Adit Kansal**  
Bothell, WA



**Amanram Raghulan**  
Lakeville, MN



**Amrit Arasamangalam**  
Plano, TX



**Rudra Gaddam**  
Austin, TX



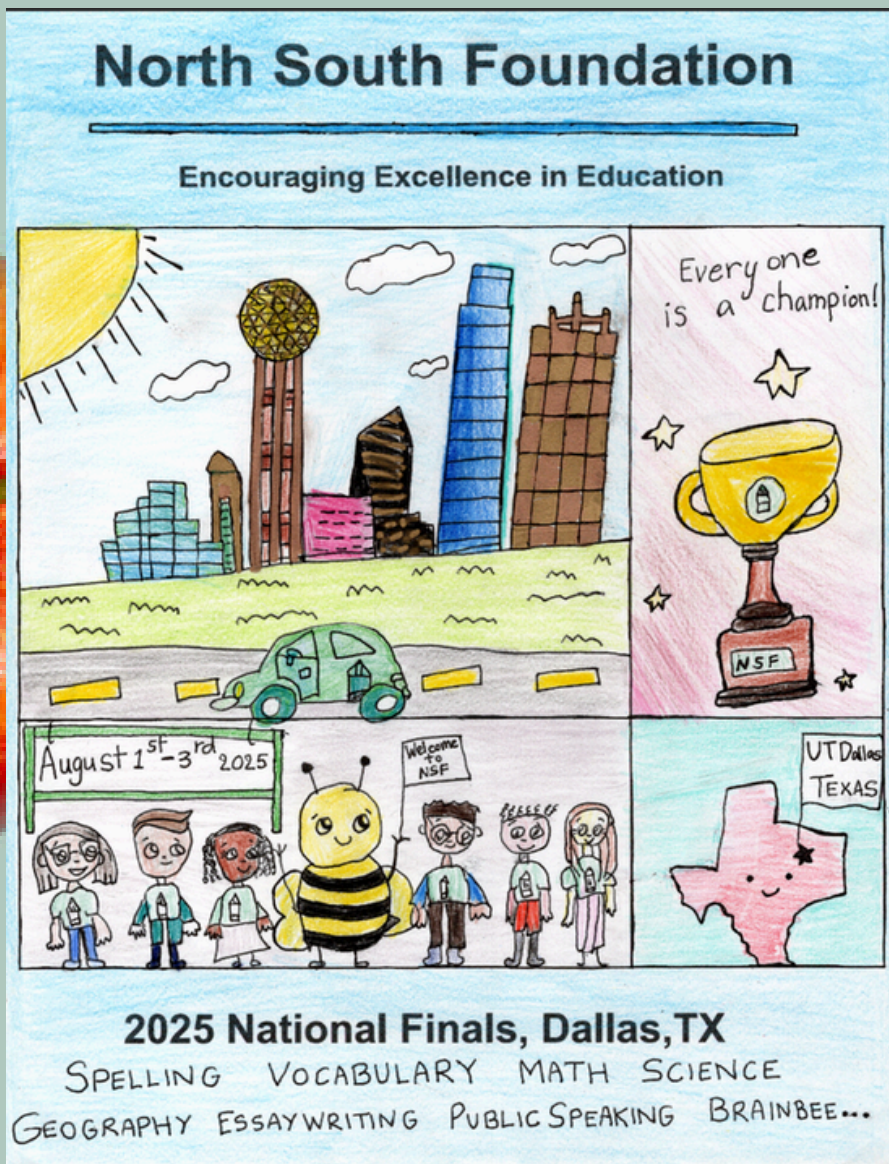
# Math Bee Level 2

## NOT PICTURED

Nila Ashok  
Shourjo Basu  
Kabir Bhargava  
Ghanashyam Bolineni  
Neel Busi  
Varen Challagolla  
Kiaan Gandhi  
Sahan Gara  
Navtegh Issar  
Saira Iyer  
Amrith Jathin

Vishanth Kalpatthi  
Ryan Kasturia  
Anit Khaitan  
Neil Kolhapure  
Anagh Kumar  
Aahana Kundu  
Madhav Mankad  
Anish Mudigonda  
Vasudev Nambulli  
Devank Narayan

Vardhan Panda  
Vivek Raval  
Abhi Ruddaraju  
Ayansh Sahu  
Daanya Sankar  
Advay Shrivastava  
Sree Harsha Siliveri  
Vihaan Reddy Sodanapalli  
Kanushi Toshniwal  
Prabhav Vashishth  
Gautam Vemulapalli  
Nihal Vivek



Cover Design Contest  
Honorable mention  
-Akshara Thummala  
San Ramon, CA  
5th grade



# It's not too late to start your learning Journey

## with NorthSouth

I am a rising high school senior. I am currently volunteering in multiple charitable organizations and serving as a Youth Secretary at Tamil Nadu Foundations, a charitable Organization. I aspire to help the underprivileged children in India; I have been actively involved in yearly fundraising events organized by AimForSeva. Apart from this, I have been playing tennis since the 3rd grade with the Cencelado Tennis Academy, and I have participated in many tournaments and won prizes. Another hobby is playing table tennis, 2D Art, and I do not miss participating in the 5K running, such as the Publix 5K running. I recently participated in the Mother's Day 5K running, which will keep me healthy and focused on my goals. My journey with NorthSouth started late during my 10th grade; After exploring all the spelling bees, competitions, and various learning opportunities provided by NorthSouth, I felt like I missed the boat, and I thought I should have started my journey with NorthSouth during my elementary grades. This brings an important aspect of spreading the word about this beautiful, change-making organization.

When my parents introduced me to NorthSouth, I decided to take the SAT classes during the summer of 2024. These classes were incredibly beneficial, helping me improve my SAT scores. I am learning AI through the AI Recorded Speaker Sessions, which are very useful. I also participated in the Senior Public Speaking competition and won second place. As a registered Change Maker and Volunteer, I'm excited to continue growing personally and positively impacting others' learning journeys through NorthSouth. More importantly, I will spread the word about NorthSouth to families and friends.

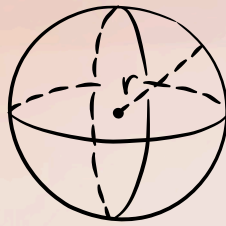
Sheavitha Vijeyakumar  
(A Rising High School Senior)





# Math Bee

## Level 3



**Nithara Aring**  
Westlake, OH



**Niranth Bhumireddy**  
Highland Village, TX



**Ishi Bhusarapu**  
Sugar Land, TX



**Chaithanya Budida**  
Okemos, MI



**Rian Camty**  
Elkhorn, NE



**Rohan Chellapilla**  
New Providence, NJ



**Aditya Chengalva**  
Carmel, IN



**Pranshi Chinta**  
Paradise Valley, AZ



**Avik Dutta**  
Sharon, MA



**Veer Garg**  
Wayne, PA



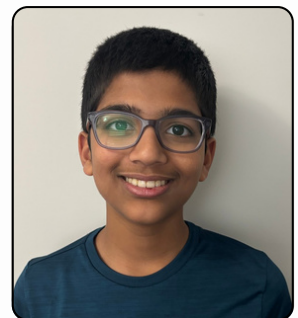
**Indhraneel Gowram**  
Bixby, OK



**Hayden Hughes**  
Newtown, CT



**Neil Iyer**  
Irvine, CA



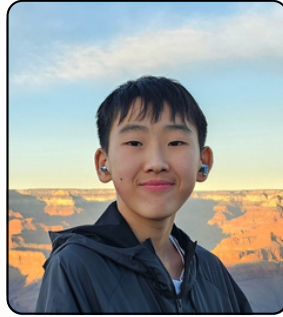
**Advait Joshi**  
Livingston, NJ



# Math Bee Level 3



**Aarav Khurana**  
Allen, TX



**Robin Kim**  
Bridgewater Township, NJ



**Kavin Kumarappan**  
Jersey City, NJ



**Aneesh Malyavanatham**  
Hillsboro, OR



**Srivatsan Marimuthu**  
Acton, MA



**Vishnu Meda**  
Albuquerque, NM



**Ayan Mehra**  
Redmond, WA



**Vikyath Munagala**  
Ashburn, VA



**Shrivatsa Murugan**  
Thornton, CO



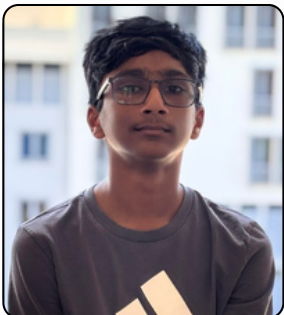
**Lakshmi Modak Muvvala**  
Coraopolis, PA



**Atharv Nagavarapu**  
Waukesha, WI



**Sarvesh Nandakumar**  
Chantilly, VA



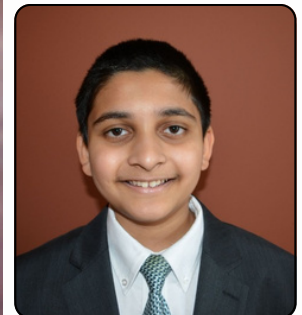
**Rithik Natarajan**  
Glen Allen, VA



**Ishaan Nirmal**  
Milpitas, CA



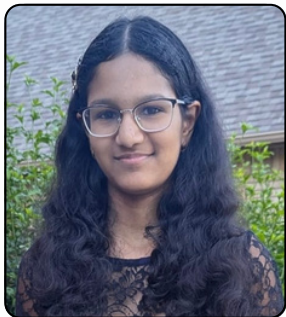
**Siddhant Patil**  
Frisco, TX



**Abinash Paupoo**  
Omaha, NE



# Math Bee Level 3



**Saanvi Potluri**  
Coppell, TX



**Srikar Puppala**  
Canton, MI



**Rishabh Rajesh**  
Hoffman Estates, IL



**Abhiram Ramesh**  
Hillsboro, OR



**Jotin Samayamantri**  
Buffalo Grove, IL



**Ryan Santosh**  
Los Gatos, CA



**Anish Saravanan**  
Westford, MA



**Veeraj Sarkar**  
Westport, CT



**Arjun Sengar**  
Round Rock, TX



**Nuvid Singh**  
Barrington, IL



**Janani Sudarshan**  
Cary, NC



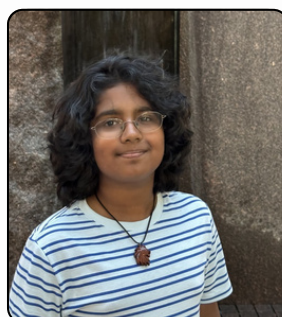
**Yusra Syeda**  
San Ramon, CA



**Shriyan Veldandi**  
San Ramon, CA



**Akshay Vemuri**  
Saratoga, CA



**Adarsh Venkannagari**  
Acton, MA



**Akhshar Vijayakumar**  
Byron, MN



# Math Bee Level 3



**Manish Vishnuram**  
Bothell, WA



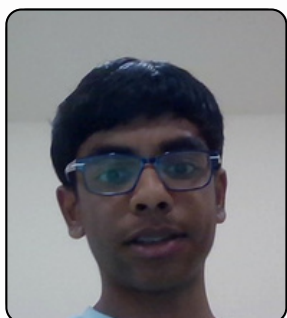
**Aaron Wu**  
Charlotte, NC



**Sahishn Bangaru**  
Bridgewater, NJ



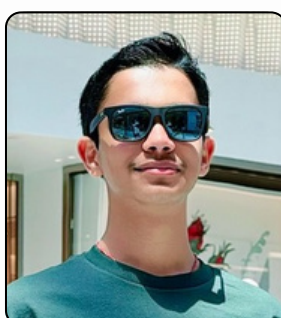
**Max Desaikov**  
Chapel Hill, NC



**Srijay Kora**  
Princeton, NJ



**Diya Kosaraju**  
Frisco, TX



**Revant Pandey**  
Matthews, NC



**Raguram Raghulan**  
Lakeville, MN



**Alden Raymond**  
Folsom, CA



**Aarav Sen**  
Leander, TX



**Samarth Subramanian**  
Morrisville, NC

## NOT PICTURED

Imran Allahwali  
Jiya Bhavsar  
Sanskriti Bukkapatnam  
Reyansh Chakka  
Sasha Challagolla  
Ekantika Chaudhuri  
Aadhithya Devarajan  
Suhas Devarakonda  
Aniket Eshan  
Saharsh Gangam  
Avahan Gautam  
Avni Gautam  
Aarav Gupta  
Aarush Gupta  
Nakul Nair

Gowtham Nandigam  
Vidyuth Naveenkumar  
Arnav Pagadala  
Rananjay Parmar  
Ishaan Paryemalani  
Ishan Puvvala  
Rohit Raja  
Hasini Ramkumar  
Ria Rapaka  
Ashrith Repaka  
Siddharth Sajeesh  
YughiMukilan SathishKumar  
Taahir Shaikh  
Reyansh Sharma  
Jiyan Singh  
Purandar Yeruva



# Making An Impact

-Dhruva Ambati

One thing I'm truly passionate about is volunteering. It's not just something I do, it's a core part of who I am. Volunteering has given me the chance to make a real difference in my community, whether I'm helping at the Houston Food Bank, the Second Mile Mission Center, the Fort Bend Women's Shelter, or with Lunches of Love. I believe that giving back is one of the most powerful ways to create change, and I'm committed to helping others however I can. Every hour I spend volunteering feels like I'm contributing to something bigger than myself.

When I first started volunteering, I didn't realize how much it would change me. It wasn't just about helping people in need; it was about learning what it really means to give without expecting anything in return. I've spent over 200 hours volunteering so far as a 9th grader, and each experience has shaped my perspective on the world. Volunteering has shown me that no act of kindness is too small, and even the simplest gesture can have a ripple effect in someone's life.

What has impacted me most is being aware that I'm helping. Whether it's packing meals with Lunches of Love or organizing the thrift store to support women and children at the Fort Bend Women's Shelter, I know the impact of a dedicated volunteer taking time out of their day to help.

These experiences have humbled me and reminded me that we all have the power to make someone's day a little brighter. The people I've met along the way have inspired me to keep going, even when it's tough. They've taught me that compassion is a choice we make every single day. The more I volunteer, the more I realize how much I've grown. It's taught me important life skills like empathy, communication, and problem-solving. But more than that, it's taught me the value of community and how we all have a role in helping each other. Volunteering has opened my eyes to the world beyond my own bubble, and it's pushed me to always look for ways to serve others. Every time I volunteer, I come away with a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper connection to the world around me.



Dhruva Ambati (left) attending a training for the Texas Advocacy Project to learn about the Teen dating violence and participate in fundraising efforts to support victims

Volunteering isn't just something I do on the side, it's a way of life. I plan to continue helping wherever I can because I know that the work I'm doing matters. I've seen the difference one person can make, and I want to be that person who sparks positive change. Volunteering has not only shaped who I am today but will continue to shape the person I become. It has inspired me to keep pushing forward, knowing that my efforts, no matter how small, contribute to something much larger than myself.



# Junior Science Bee



**Aadhi Maganti**  
Atlanta, GA



**Aaditya Kandpal**  
Big Rapids, MI



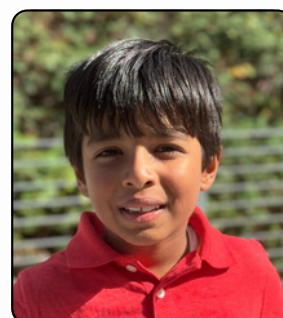
**Aaradhya Singh**  
Omaha, NE



**Aaratrika Agrawal**  
Portland, OR



**Aarya Seepana**  
Harrisburg, NC



**Adhyan Rajpoot**  
Cumming, GA



**Ahaan Dubal**  
Deerfield, IL



**Akshara Balaji**  
Bothell, WA



**Anika Machavaram**  
Flower Mound, TX



**Anshika Kotha**  
Frisco, TX



**Arjun Shukla**  
Bargersville, IN



**Arnav Arun**  
Waukesha, WI



**Ashvik Chintanaboina**  
San Jose, CA



**Atharv Joshi**  
Lewis Center, OH



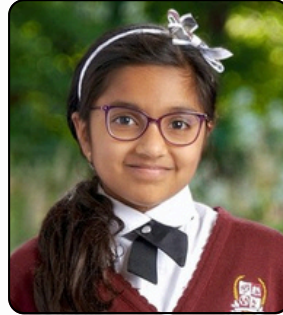
# Junior Science Bee



**Atharva Dubal**  
Deerfield, IL



**Aurelian Basu**  
Lagrangeville, NY



**Aurora Ghows**  
Austin, TX



**Avyaan Chintamaneni**  
Missouri City, TX



**Dhruv Panicker**  
Nashua, NH



**Divaaansh Maruboyina**  
Shrewsbury, MA



**Drithi Prasaad**  
Ashburn, VA



**Drithikaa Srikumar**  
Solon, OH



**Ella Zhu**  
Beachwood, OH



**Ganesh Gajula**  
Tampa, FL



**George Vaughn**  
Beachwood, OH



**Harsha Jakkepally**  
Delray Beach, FL



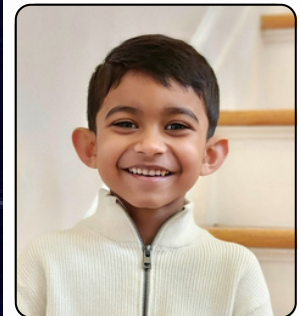
**Hridhaan Patel**  
Bentonville, AR



**Insiya Zaranwala**  
Glen Allen, VA



**Irya Yerapotina**  
Chadds Ford, PA



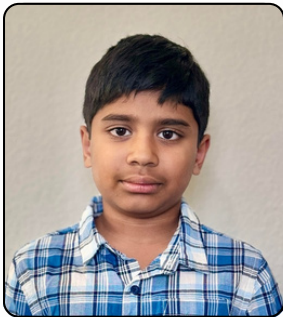
**Ishaan Dash**  
Princeton Junction, NJ



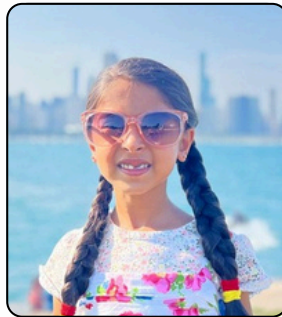
# Junior Science Bee



**Jaivik Reddy Penubolu**  
Newark, DE



**Kalkin Nataraj**  
Henderson, NV



**Kiara Rastogi**  
Morris Plains, NJ



**Kiya Adhikari**  
Louisville, KY



**Laasya Mohan**  
Herndon, VA



**Maanvi Gopal**  
Louisville, KY



**Maya Jacob**  
Plainsboro, NJ



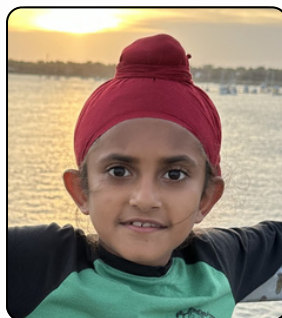
**Mikul Bindal**  
Plainsboro, NJ



**Mysha Ali**  
Maple Shade, NJ



**Nainika Gundam**  
Ashburn, VA



**Navtej Farmaha**  
Augusta, GA



**Navya Bhatia**  
Suwanee, GA



**Nayna Rajendran**  
Bakersfield, CA



**Neelansh Shedada**  
Bettendorf, IA



**Neil Kalani**  
San Jose, CA



**Nivaan Shah**  
Austin, TX



# Junior Science Bee



**Parnavi Pitale**  
McKinney, TX



**Parth Shrivastava**  
Lincolnshire, IL



**Pranav Balasubramanian**  
Sherwood, OR



**Prisha Devershetty**  
Fremont, CA



**Raagavi Janakiraman**  
Buffalo Grove, IL



**Reyansh Gupta**  
Princeton Junction, NJ



**Riaan Bichkar-Modak**  
Ann Arbor, MI



**Rihan Shekhrajka**  
Coralville, IA



**Risha Singh**  
Lincoln, NE



**Ronik Saduneni**  
Waxhaw, NC



**Saahas Chakra Chindurala**  
Austin, TX



**Saathvik Satish**  
Deerfield, IL



**Saharsh Nagendra**  
Las Vegas, NV



**Samardh Mantha**  
Wesley Chapel, FL



**Sankarshan Ramanan**  
Coppell, TX



**Sayan Panda**  
Frisco, TX



# Junior Science Bee



**Sreenidhi Padala**  
Lutz, FL



**Stuti Arora**  
Hillsboro, OR



**Suraj Garugu**  
Frisco, TX



**Tanmay Naveena Sampige**  
Bothell, WA



**Vardaan Sharma**  
Portland, OR



**Varish Sekar**  
Latham, NY



**Vihaan Therattil**  
Elkhorn, NE



**Vikram Taneja**  
Westport, CT



**Vishvak Sridhar**  
Draper, UT



**Vivaan Ruparel**  
Sugarland, TX



**Vivek Vempati**  
Fulshear, TX



**Yuvaan Deshpande**  
Beaverton, OR



# Junior Science Bee

## NOT PICTURED

Aahana Polala  
Aayaan Sardana  
Advik Siva  
Advith Padmanabhan  
Anirudh Hachiprasad  
Ashvita Sivachidambaram  
Avni Sharma  
Avyaan Krishnan  
Evani Deb

Havish Ramkumar  
Hothri Anika Balla  
Hrim Mehta  
Insiya Zaranwala  
Ira Aute  
Kana Kayali  
Kiaan Modi

Rakshidhaa Sivamuthukumar  
Reyansh Arvind  
Reyansh Vudhamari  
Rishaan Basu  
Vihaan Vidiyala  
Vivaan Pasumarthy  
Yuvaan Mohapatra

## What Do You Want to Do When You Grow Up?

*We are twin brothers, Atharva and Ahaan. We are 3rd graders and together we want to be able to help people live a healthy and long life.*

**Ahaan-** *I want to become a software engineer when I grow up. I love technology and coding. I want to be able to fix problems and develop new software. I am good at Math and problem solving, which can help me. I want to help people by making new apps and robots that can make their life easier and help doctors cure more patients. I am learning how to code to achieve my dream. I like to explore new trends in the technological world.*

**Atharva-** *I want to become a doctor when I grow up. I want to be able to help people feel better and take care of them. I love learning about how the human body works and trying hard to stay healthy by eating right and exercising. Science and Math are my favorite subjects that will help me with my career. I want to cure sick people, so that they can smile again. I also like exploring how robots are helping doctors with surgeries.*

*Although we want to become different professionals when we grow up, we want to work together as a team and help people in many ways. We want to put our individual jobs and knowledge together to help hospitals by making machines that help us find diseases and robots that can help with surgeries. When we work together as a team, we can save many lives and help people stay healthy. Doctors and software engineers are heroes in their own way. But when they work together, they make the world a healthier and smarter place to live.*

***Doctor + Software Engineer = Better Health for All!***

----By Atharva & Ahaan Dubal



# Impact of Sports on a Freshman

-Samarth Shiva

Starting high school as a freshman can be crazy, but joining any sport can have a huge impact emotionally, academically and socially. In my case, swimming is what helped me through the first few months of school.

Swimming, emotionally, is a positive outlet for stress which is super common during the transition to high school. It gives you a structured routine which helps you have a target to aim for. Being part of a team also boosts self esteem, especially when you meet goals or make progress in the pool. The physical activity itself is brutal, but it gives you gratification which naturally improves your mood and overall mental health. When a freshman feels emotionally stable they're better equipped to handle academic pressures.

Swimming enforces discipline and time management skills, due to the long practices this can translate into more efficient study habits and classroom performance. Having to balance practices with homework teaches more responsibility and prioritization. Plus many student-athletes find that exercise improves their focus and energy levels during the school day. As a result of this, student athlete's stay physically healthy which inhibits them to be more active and alert in the classroom. In my view, swimming promotes a strong work ethic, which boosts confidence and self esteem, essentially helping you become more social.

Socially, joining the swim team creates an instant community and helps freshmen build friendships with upper classmen faster in a new environment. This new relationship also helps one advance in the pool and outside as well. It allows them to get valuable guidance and mentorship from the people surrounding you. Through practices, meets and team events, freshmen develop communication skills and a recognition of trust. This social integration can ease feelings of loneliness and help them feel more connected to the school. This can also be seen through the moral support of a coach, who does their hardest to make sure his top swimmers, both freshman and upperclassmen, are benefiting the most from this experience. Some might say that their coach is the one that helped them move on the most, in and out of the pool in all aspects of life.

The support system freshman get from the team often helps them the most during these four years. Ultimately, swimming is more than physical benefits; it shapes character, builds resilience and establishes lifelong memories for a freshman navigating high school.



# Intermediate Science Bee



**Aadyant Duvvuru**  
Fremont, CA



**Aariana Gawande**  
Carlisle, MA



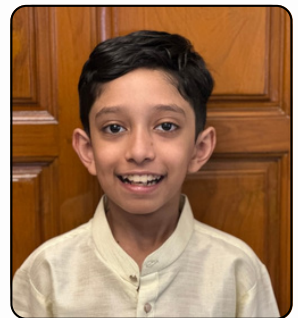
**Aarnit Chinthakindi**  
Dublin, CA



**Aarush Gaddam**  
Menomonee Falls, WI



**Aayu Prasad Goudar**  
Wooster, OH



**Abhay Jairaj**  
Peoria, AZ



**Abhinav Nambudiri**  
Newton, MA



**Abhiram Suravarapu**  
Stilwell, KS



**Advait Parikh**  
Bothell, WA



**Akshaj Chidananda**  
Bettendorf, IA



**Akshaj Therattil**  
Elkhorn, NE



**Amrit Arasamangalam**  
Plano, TX



**Amrita Iyer**  
Bellevue, WA



**Anika Naik**  
Omaha, NE



# Intermediate Science Bee



**Anton Raymond**  
Folsom, CA



**Anvee Das**  
Mount Laurel, NJ



**Anvita Alapati**  
San Jose, CA



**Anwita Mishra**  
Overland Park, KS



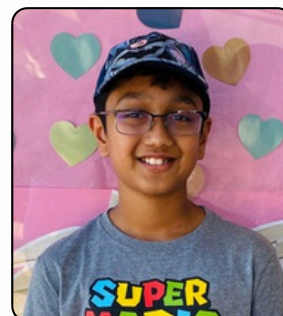
**Arav Siruvole**  
Milpitas, CA



**Ariana Patra**  
Buffalo Grove, NH



**Arushi Patra**  
Buffalo Grove, NH



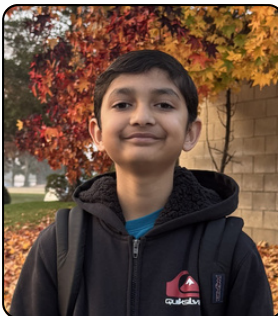
**Atharv Gupta**  
Fremont, CA



**Ava Premkumar**  
Marietta, GA



**Avighna Kalyankar**  
Canton, MI



**Avyaan Jain**  
Bakersfield, CA



**Avyukth Ram Sarann**  
Cumming, GA



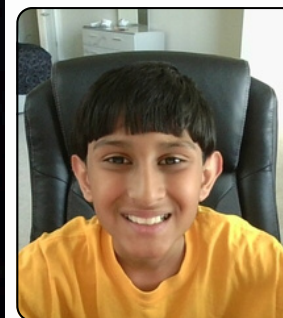
**Ayan Pai**  
Rockville, MD



**Benjamin Jacob**  
Plainsboro, NJ



**Dhriti Kashyap**  
Ashland, MA



**Dhruv Patel**  
Orlando, FL



# Intermediate Science Bee



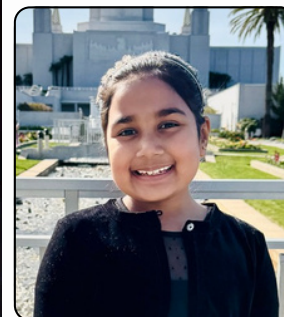
**Dhruv Srivastava**  
Marlboro, NJ



**Hamsini Venkatesh**  
Brentwood, NH



**Indra Sriram**  
Dallas, TX



**Ishani Dasgupta**  
San Jose, CA



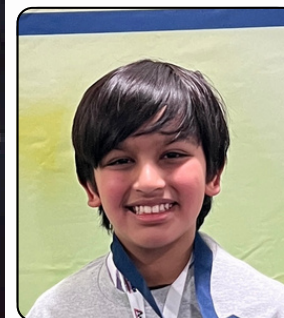
**Karthik Jayaprakash Narayana**  
Solon, OH



**Krish Gupta**  
Sugarland, TX



**Krishang Thiagarajan**  
Mars, PA



**Moksh Bafna**  
Peninsula, OH



**Narain Naveen Prabhu**  
Austin, TX



**Neeraj Rajesh**  
Chesterfield, MO



**Neil Kashyap**  
Newark, CA



**Nia Sood**  
Ashland, MA



**Nick Pradhan**  
Wilsonville, OR



**Nidharshana Vijay**  
Plano, TX



**Nikhil Tangirala**  
Suwanee, GA



**Nivedh Joseph**  
Fremont, CA



# Intermediate Science Bee



**Niyati Chandrasekar**  
Portland, OR



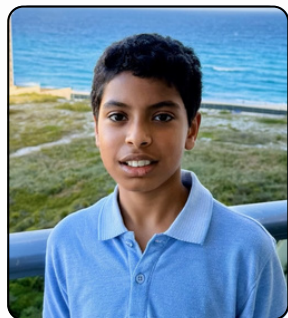
**Norah Nair**  
Hayward, CA



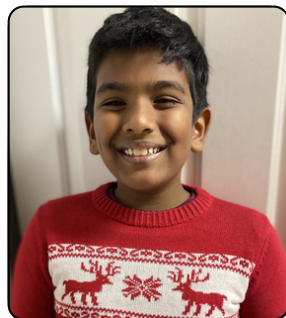
**Parnika Sukhavasi**  
Dunlap, IL



**Pranav Prabanand**  
Cumming, GA



**Rayan Singh**  
Lincoln, NE



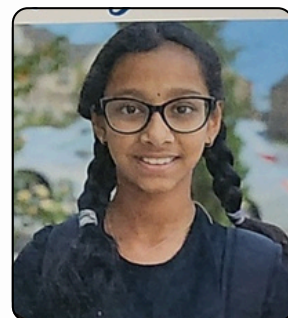
**Rishaan Nandi**  
Dallas, TX



**Rohan Narhe**  
Maryland Heights, MO



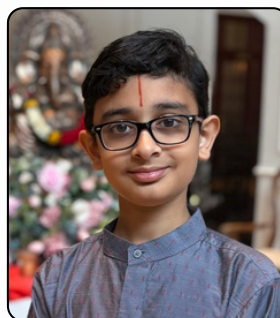
**Saranya Nandi**  
Bentonville, AR



**Shanmukha Sreekaree Tangirala**  
Frisco, TX



**Shaurya Tatineni**  
Sugar Land, TX



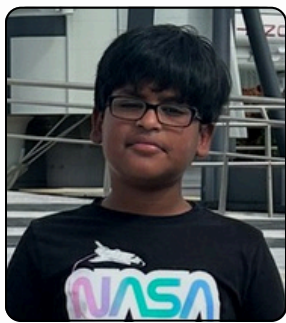
**Shreyas Sudarshan**  
Cary, NC



**Siddharth Vankadara**  
Brookhaven, GA



**Spurthi Adavi**  
Strongsville, OH



**Srihaan Moluguri**  
Okemos, MI



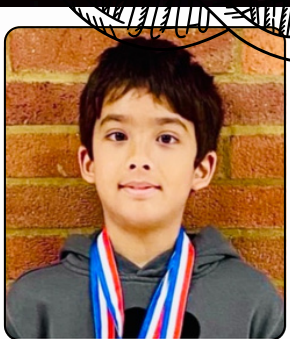
**Sritha Potluri**  
Allen, TX



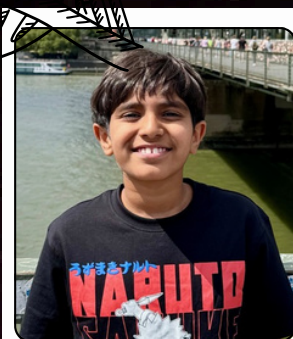
**Sumedh Kulkarni**  
Ashburn, VA



# Intermediate Science Bee



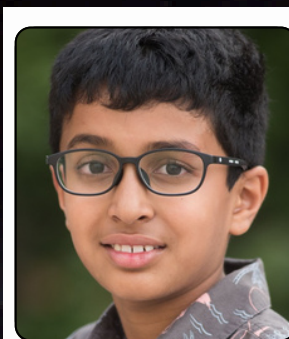
**Vaibhav Menedal**  
Hershey, PA



**Vihan Chaudhary**  
Chesterfield, MO



**Violet Hughes**  
Newtown, CT



**Viyat Madhyastha**  
Cerritos, CA



**Yoshitha Budida**  
Okemos, MI



**Yuvan Thanda**  
Cohoes, NY

## NOT PICTURED

Aadhiran Anand  
Aarya Prasanna  
Abhi Ruddaraju  
Advik Madhumitha Selvasundaram  
Amrith Jathin  
Arohi Hiriur Avinash  
Baani Singh  
Daanya Sankar  
Devank Narayan  
Dyuthi Thammaneni  
Gautam Vemulapalli

Ghanashyam Bolineni  
Harshad Prabu  
Harshith Valluri  
Ishaan Palanivel  
Ishan Tumla  
Kanushi Toshniwal  
Madhav Mankad  
Milan Hirian  
Narain Vinoth  
Neel Busi  
Nihal Vivek

Prudhvi Gandham  
Samhita Mishra  
Shakthi Sampathkumar  
Shreyaan Jha  
Sukir Sampathkumar  
Vasudev Nambulli  
Ved Nagabhyru  
Vishanth Kalpatthi



## What I'm passionate about: Neutron stars, Pulsars, and Magnetars

Lahari Ganti

Many of us are familiar with stars, the bright, burning, balls of plasma in the sky. Yet few people know what happens at the end of these object's "life cycles". Most stars similar in size to our sun shed their outer layers to form colorful planetary nebulae. Yet stars tens to hundreds of times more massive than the sun take a more violent turn.

At the end of their lives, they undergo what is known as a core collapse supernova: some of the most dramatic fireworks in the universe. The core of the star is crushed so tightly that protons and electrons fuse into neutrons packed densely together. Sometimes, in particularly massive stars, the core can collapse further to form a black hole, but that's a topic for another time. For now, we'll go back to the densely packed neutrons.

These crushed atomic nuclei form an object called a neutron star, which is exactly what it sounds like. Picture two suns stuffed into an area as small as a city. That's how dense a neutron star is. In fact, one teaspoon of a neutron star weighs about the same amount as Mt. Everest.

Within neutron stars, there are a few different categories. Pulsars are neutron stars that spin many times per second and emit radiation at their poles. When these beams of radiation are pointed towards earth, we detect a pulse. A fun fact about pulsars is that they were once thought to be alien signals!

Pulsars have various purposes in astronomy. Since pulse arrivals are so regular, irregularities in pulsar timing can be used to detect gravitational waves, fluctuations in space and time. Additionally, changes in the intensity of pulses can be used to make a map of the interstellar medium, bits of dust and gas scattered throughout the universe.

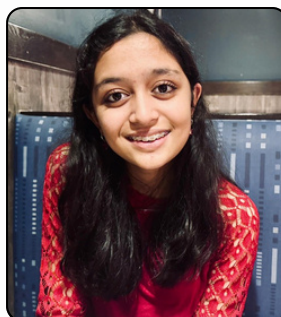
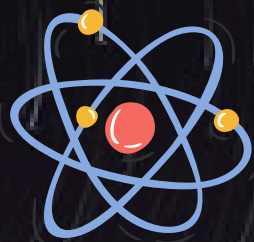
Magnetars are a type of neutron star that have the strongest magnetic fields in the universe. A magnetar has a magnetic field up to 10 trillion times stronger than a refrigerator magnet's magnetic field. Magnetars are especially interesting because they are associated with gamma ray bursts and X-ray bursts, some of the most energetic events in the universe. Magnetars are interesting because they help us learn more about forces and allow us to test scientific theories.

Neutron stars are also found in binary systems. One famous example of a binary neutron star system is the Hulse-Taylor pulsar, a binary system of a pulsar and a neutron star. The Hulse-Taylor pulsar's orbital decay allowed for the first indirect detection of gravitational waves and for testing general relativity. In fact, binary neutron stars systems continue to be useful for testing theories today. Gravitational waves produced by these binary systems and neutron star collisions can be studied by LIGO, a gravitational wave observatory.

Overall neutron stars are intriguing objects that have a wide range of applications in astronomy and physics. From pulsar scintillation used to map the interstellar medium, to binary neutron stars and neutron star collisions, neutron stars help us learn more about the universe every day.



# Senior Science Bee



**Aarna Mishra**  
Georgetown, TX



**Adarsh Hari**  
Glen Mills, PA



**Adarsh Venkannagari**  
Acton, MA



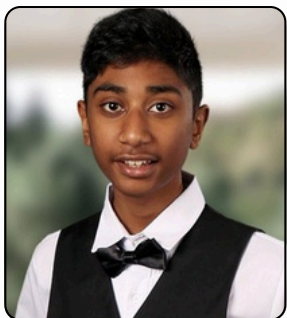
**Adhrit Manchikanti**  
Apex, NC



**Aditya Chengalva**  
Carmel, IN



**Akhshar Vijayakumar**  
Byron, MN



**Alden Raymond**  
Folsom, CA



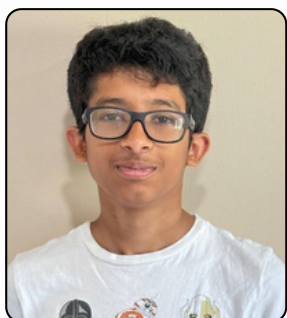
**Aneesh Malyavanatham**  
Hillsboro, OR



**Anvi Tandon**  
Livermore, CA



**Anvita Sista**  
Perrysburg, OH



**Arjun Movva**  
Plainsboro Township, NJ



**Arjun Sengar**  
Round Rock, TX



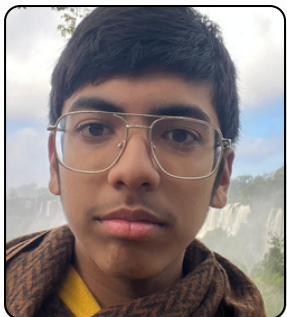
**Ashvik Prasaad**  
Ashburn, VA



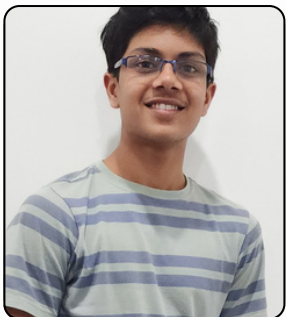
**Avik Dutta**  
Sharon, MA



# Senior Science Bee



**Ayan Biswal**  
Bel Air, MD



**Chaithanya Budida**  
Okemos, MI



**Diya Kosaraju**  
Frisco, TX



**Guhan Velanjeri**  
Ashburn, VA



**Hayden Hughes**  
Newtown, CT



**Ishaan Nirmal**  
Milpitas, CA



**Kavin Vignesh**  
Jacksonville, FL



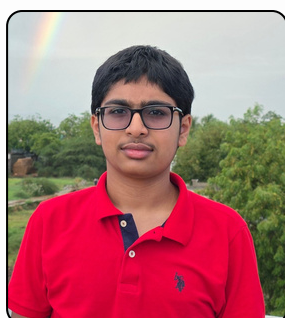
**Lakshmi Modak Muvvala**  
Coraopolis, PA



**Mahaakshobia Shunmugam**  
Sloatsburg, NY



**Nimish Khairnar**  
Princeton, NJ



**Niranth Bhumireddy**  
Highland Village, TX



**Parth Gupta**  
Lincolnshire, IL



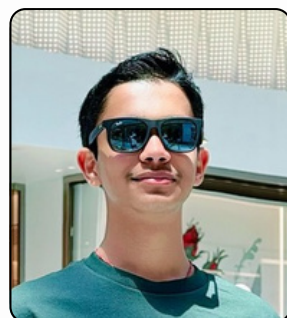
**Poorvi Sreekanth**  
San Jose, CA



**Prajnay Chavan**  
Morrisville, NC



**Ram Jhaveri**  
Katy, TX



**Revant Pandey**  
Matthews, NC



# Senior Science Bee



**Rishabh Rajesh**  
Hoffman Estates, IL



**Rishav Yarlagadda**  
Orlando, FL



**Ritam Talukder**  
Poughkeepsie, NY



**Rohan Chellapilla**  
New Providence, NJ



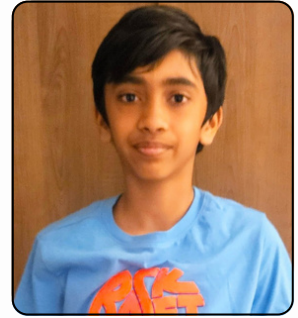
**Saanvi Veeramaneni**  
Princeton, NJ



**Saarth Harkawat**  
East Windsor, NJ



**Sahishn Bangaru**  
Bridgewater, NJ



**Sanjit Srinivasan**  
Schaumburg, IL



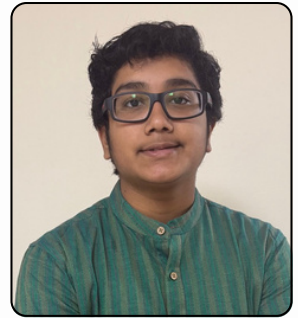
**Shaan Patel**  
Buffalo Grove, IL



**Shlok Patil**  
Austin, TX



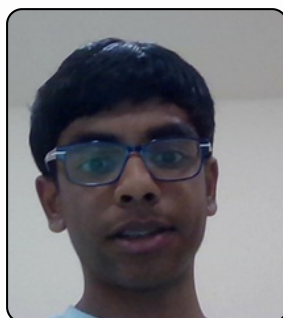
**Shreyas Akula**  
Prosper, TX



**Siddhardh Mantha**  
Wesley Chapel, FL



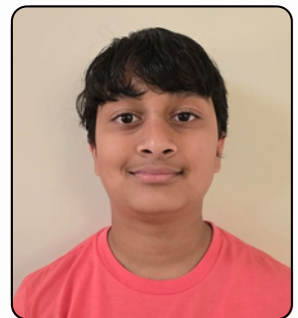
**Siddharth Suhas Nalamari**  
Little Elm, TX



**Srijay Kora**  
Princeton, NJ



**Sriniketh Venkatesan**  
Buffalo Grove, IL



**Swanik Bari**  
Monroe, NJ



# Senior Science Bee



**Vibhav Srinivas**  
Okemos, MI



**Vidhur Sundalam**  
Austin, TX



**Vidyutt Jagadeesan**  
Edison, NJ



**Vihaan Sundar**  
San Jose, CA



**Vishank Kotha**  
Frisco, TX



**Vishnu Badhan**  
Hillsborough, NJ



**Yusra Syeda**  
San Ramon, CA



**Yusuf Dean**  
Harvey, ND

## NOT PICTURED

Aadhavan Rajendrakumar  
Aadhitya Devarajan  
Aarush Gupta  
Adit Nangunuri  
Advik Dumpala  
Ajishveera Jayachandran  
Anirudh Kiran  
Anish Madhavaram  
Anoushka Pradhan  
Aparna Vemmelesseril  
Arnav Pagadala  
Ashrith Repaka  
Bhuvi Govardhanan Sudhakar

Eesha Rachakonda  
Ekantika Chaudhuri  
Ishan Puvvala  
Ishanth Vyakaranam  
Jiya Bhavsar  
Jiyan Singh  
Madhava Kurella  
Pranshi Mehta  
Prasan Sundaravadivel  
Purandar Yeruva  
Rehan Shaikh  
Rithesh Rajagopal

Sachin Shankar  
Sai Samhith Kota  
Samhita Yellepeddi  
Shourya Mogulothu  
Shreyan Basu  
Sian Nissam  
Srinithik Sabry  
Tanirika Rajeev  
Tarrunn Anand  
Tiasha Padate



# Stand and Deliver

—Adhitri S

For my entire life, I've had a love-hate relationship with public speaking.

The first time I was on a stage was when I was two years old, reciting various poems in Tamil, my native language. The trend has continued my entire life: storytelling contests, debate competitions, essay readouts, and argumentative speeches. People see the results, and mutter about how 'easy it is.' Little do they know how much work – and fear – goes into every speech.

While I may seem confident and calm on stage, invariably, an hour or two before speaking time, I suffer from a mental breakdown. Images flash before my eyes of every failed speaking attempt, every slipup, every disapproving member of the audience muttering to themselves about how she 'at least tried.' By the time I'm supposed to climb onto the dais and speak my piece, my legs feel like jelly, especially after listening to the wonderful speeches made by everyone else, wondering how I could ever compare.

As I've gotten older, the audience has gotten bigger and bigger, from my family to my school to trained judges who have watched people just like me for decades. Even though this may be the first time I ever encountered those people, it feels like they can see right through me, and know every slipup and mistake I ever committed.

After I deliver my speech and scurry back to the safety of my seat, I watch with a sinking feeling as others go up to speak, stating their opinions with confidence and poise. However, when they come down, they often say with a cringe, "I was awful up there, wasn't I?"

Each time, I'm struck as people who are clearly professionals express their fear and lack of self-confidence to me. I think back on my own emotions, my own feelings of inferiority, and think, was it really all that bad?

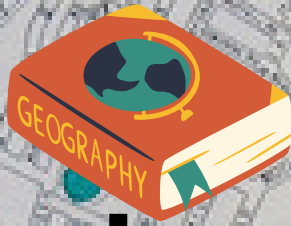
In my many years of public speaking, through the many times I've had to fight through nerves and deliver, I've learned that you're not the only person who feels that they are 'not enough' – everyone feels that way. It's how to react to fear, how you let it push you to greater heights, that truly matters. This is as true for public speaking as it is for Science Olympiad, Academic Bowl, or simply daily life.

Overall, fear is simply a side effect of doing anything brave, new, or daring. It may be easier to simply curl up under the covers and hide from it. However, when you spell out a Spell Bee word, answer a Science Olympiad test, bring your hand down on an Academic Bowl Buzzer, stand and deliver the speech of a lifetime...

...it's in moments like that, that great things happen.



# Junior Geography Bee



**Kiya Adhikari**  
Louisville, KY



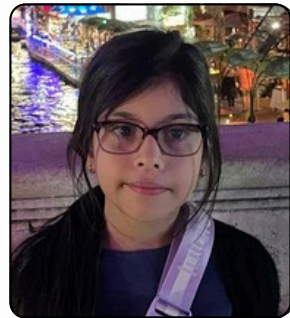
**Kartik Andol**  
Fremont, CA



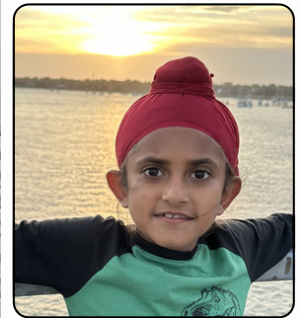
**Pranav Balasubramanian**  
Sherwood, OR



**Yuvan Dasari**  
Woodstock, GA



**Aanyaa Desai**  
Mckinney, TX



**Navtej Famaha**  
Augusta, GA



**Kavin Sabarish Gowrishankar**  
Glen Allen, VA



**Harsha Jakkepally**  
Delray Beach, FL



**Laani Kaur-Pekker**  
Pittsburgh, PA



**Sreemaan Komatireddy**  
Omaha, NE



**Abhigna Maddi**  
Aurora, IL



**Avni Makhija**  
Martinez, Georgia



**Shiv Mankal**  
Irving, TX



**Samardh Mantha**  
Wesley Chapel, FL



# Junior Geography Bee



**Anish Mishra**  
Georgetown, TX



**Ansh Modi**  
Gaithersburg, MD



**Aravind Nambudiri**  
Newton, MA



**Madhav Nandakumar**  
Apex, NC



**Thanvik Neelamegam**  
Mountain House, CA



**Dhruv Panicker**  
Nashua, NH



**Ayaan Perala**  
Virginia Beach, VA



**Vivaan Perala**  
Virginia Beach, VA



**Ishaan Pramod**  
Marlboro, NJ



**Adhyan Rajpoot**  
Cumming, GA



**Vihaan Ram**  
Weston, FL



**Sankarshan Ramanan**  
Coppell, TX



**Adhvik Ranade**  
Portland, OR



**Rishabh Rao**  
Lehi, UT



**Miles Robinson**  
Medford, NJ



**Ronik Saduneni**  
Waxhaw, NC



# Junior Geography Bee



**Varish Sekar**  
Latham, NY



**Vihaan Shah**  
Martinez, GA



**Anish Sista**  
Perrysburg, OH



**Vikram Taneja**  
Westport, CT



**Rishan Thummalapenta**  
Ofallon, MO



**Ayaan Tiwari**  
Plano, TX



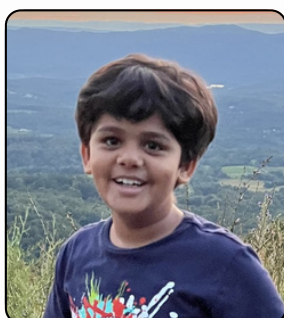
**Sriaarush Vaddadi**  
Westborough, MA



**George Vaughn**  
Beachwood, OH



**Jai Vemuri**  
Milton, GA



**Vayun Yerapotina**  
Chadds Ford, PA

## NOT PICTURED

Rishaan Basu  
Amogh Gargsha  
Eli Greenwood  
Viraat Jaju  
Krish Karumuri  
Kana Kayali

Tejas Krishnan  
Ishanth Sangaraju  
Aniket Valluripalli  
Ashwadh Vemuri  
Nithin Vivek



# Resolve the War Within

-Shravanthii Chidambaram

You come home from school, drained out. One math test and two projects were due that day, and you realize the people you thought mattered the most now consider you an option. You throw your backpack down and see your dad snoring away with the TV on. The screen flashes scenes of destruction and chaos – buildings crumbling, people running, smoke filling the sky. You change the channel. More sadness. Another conflict. More people suffering. Click, click, click – no matter how many times you flip through the channels, it's the same story over and over again: people hurting, lives lost, and fear everywhere. It starts to feel like the world is always fighting. Fighting over power, land, differences – things that, at the end of the day, can't be more valuable than people's lives. You sit there, overwhelmed. All this pain, for what?

War often happens because of cultural differences, the thirst for power, or the need for resources. But have you ever stopped to ask yourself: why do we constantly seek power, control, and answers? We think knowing everything will bring peace. But here's the truth – it's okay not to have all the answers. This has been our weakness since day one. From college students staying up late trying to carve a path for their future, to governments conquering lands and fighting wars to maintain power, the drive for control and resources has shaped human history. But what if there was a different way? What if we could learn to embrace the experience of life instead of chasing control?

As we grow, the workload increases, and the pressure builds. So people question why self-awareness is necessary when there's so much to do at school. Math and science seem more important. But that's the problem – we take emotional growth less seriously than core subjects. School has focused on developing the brain, but a strong mind is needed for both learning and mental health. A mind that's overwhelmed or depressed can't function properly.

Self-awareness classes are essential. Think about it – when have we ever truly learned about our emotions? We're taught to ignore them or only learn enough to get by. But as we grow older, stress builds, and we finally begin to understand emotions – yet when we need help the most, we're told to push through it. We're often told parents should help with emotions. But we go to school to learn more than just academics. We should also learn how to handle real-life challenges – betrayal, stress, heartbreak, loss. But these are brushed aside, labeled as personal problems.

What if you don't have supportive parents? What if they're too busy, or even abusive? What if you have trauma and no one to talk to? If you keep those feelings inside, they grow – and eventually overpower you. That's why we see so much hatred and negativity – from people who never learned how to deal with trauma. We need to change. Self-awareness classes could be the starting point – a space where minds can speak, and others listen and support. A safe space.

Classes that help you sort through your mind and emotions strengthen EQ rather than just IQ, helping students identify emotions, set goals, and consider other perspectives – lessons often missed in school. These classes could teach self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, relationship skills, and social awareness. These are the roots of success, while core subjects are the branches. Yet the education system rushes past the roots to make more time for the branches. But would a tree survive without strong roots? Mental health classes would grow both – roots and branches – creating a strong tree and a healthy life.



YAs Dr. Christina Cipriano explains, when students are struggling, they start to see school as a source of anxiety. That leads to lower self-efficacy, motivation, engagement, and connection to school.

These programs don't just affect individuals — they affect the whole community. Many people make the wrong choices in moments of trauma and desperation. "This isn't a prison; this is a trauma center — and nobody knows it," said Horstmen. A report from Florida University found that up to 95% of incarcerated men and women experienced trauma — often more than once. Over 90% faced at least one traumatic event. We say villains and criminals don't feel love — that they hurt others to cause pain. But they're not born that way — they're made. The world imposed pain on them, and they reflect it back. If they hurt others, we share part of the blame for the pain they carry. Many never dealt with their own trauma, so they fall back into old patterns and repeat the cycle.

To stop this, we must shape young minds with goodness — so much that there's no room for evil. And when darkness does enter, we need to know how to face it. When minds are young and moldable, our first focus should be personality development — not just academics. Both are equally important.

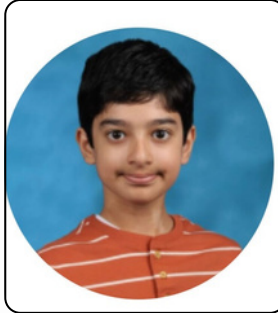
Some people who've been through trauma don't want to hurt anyone. They don't want to cause pain — they just don't know how to deal with theirs. So, they give up. They feel they've lost control over life and choose to end it. Suicide rates have been rising. In 2022, 49,000 people died by suicide. 13.2 million considered it. 3.8 million made plans. 1.6 million attempted but were stopped at the last moment.

We try to ignore it — but it's growing. The pressure of life, school, money — it's enough to pull people into the dark. Some leave the world. Some stay, barely holding on. Very few make it out without support. That's why the first line of help should never be missing. Now we can see how much this affects our lives. So let's stop leaving it to fate — and start doing something. Because this is our world, our home, our responsibility. Let's step up together .





# Senior Geography Bee



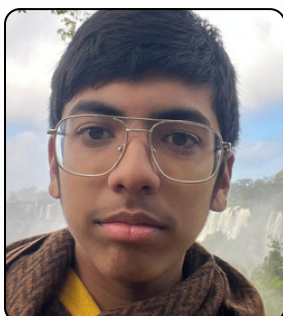
**Abhijay Ahuja**  
Plano, TX



**Arjun Banda**  
Leander, TX



**Vanu Bhavansikar**  
Milpitas, CA



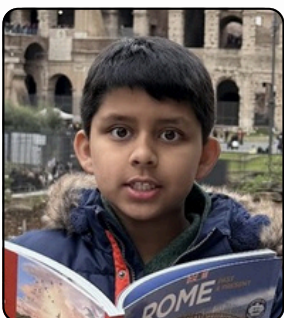
**Ayan Biswal**  
Bel Air, MD



**Akshaj Chidananda**  
Bettendorf, IA



**Agniv Das**  
San Marcos, CA



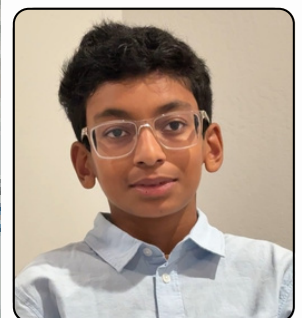
**Saagar Dekate**  
Austin, TX



**Parv Desai**  
Leesburg, GA



**Aadyant Duvvuru**  
Fremont, CA



**Advait Duvvuru**  
Fremont, CA



**Tejas Gattu**  
Valrico, FL



**Madhavan Giridharan**  
Lexington, MA



**Nihit Girish**  
Rockford, IL



**Surya Gorthi**  
Cary, NC



# Senior Geography Bee



**Adithya Jagadesh**  
Vancouver, WA



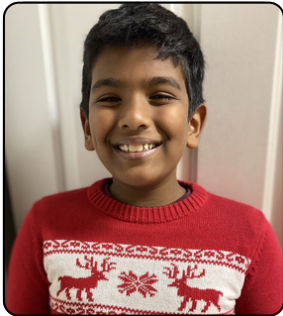
**Navika Joseph**  
Fremont, CA



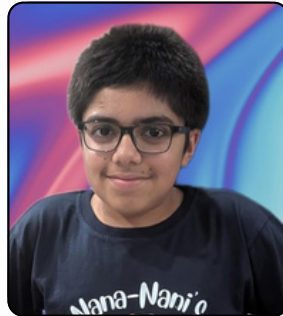
**Nivedh Joseph**  
Fremont, CA



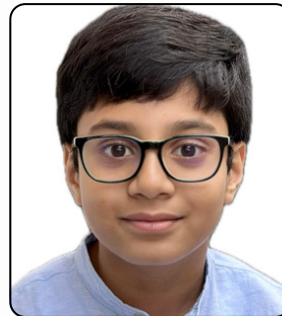
**Keshav Karur**  
Troy, MI



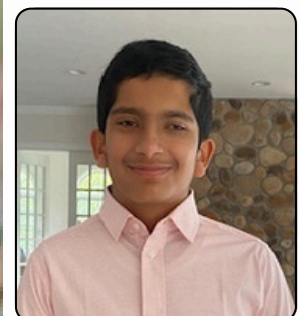
**Rishaan Kondapalli**  
Holly Springs, NC



**Nandish Koul**  
Allen, TX



**Shrihan Kuchibhotla**  
Little Elm, TX



**Siddhanth Kumar**  
Westport, CT



**Pranav Kurpad**  
Portland, OR



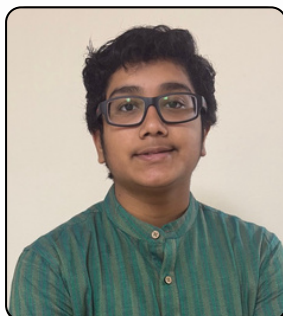
**Viyat Madhyastha**  
Cerritos, CA



**Aarhan Manish**  
Omaha, NE



**Samanyu Manoj**  
Canton, MI



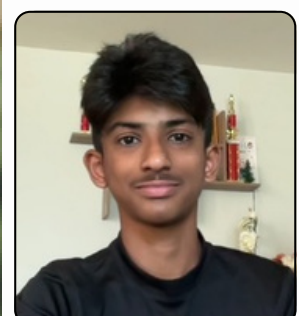
**Siddhardh Mantha**  
Wesley Chapel, FL



**Vaibhav Menedal**  
Hershey, PA



**Siddharth Oltikar**  
Chesapeake, VA



**Pranav Sankar Palliyalil**  
Nashua, NH



# Senior Geography Bee



**Revant Pandey**  
Matthews, NC



**Vishisth Pandey**  
Cumming, GA



**Aakash Parikh**  
Thornton, CO



**Advait Parikh**  
Bothell, WA



**Dhruv Patel**  
Orlando, FL



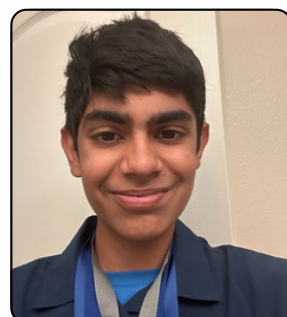
**Shaan Patel**  
Buffalo Grove, IL



**Rushil Patil**  
Jericho, NY



**Pranay Rajesh Kanna**  
Alpharetta, GA



**Rishabh Ramakrishnan**  
Phoenix, AZ



**Ayan Reddy**  
Newburgh, IN



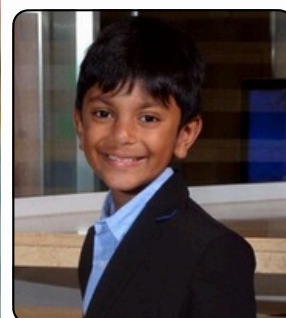
**Havish Rondla**  
Carmel, IN



**Arjun Sengar**  
Round Rock, TX



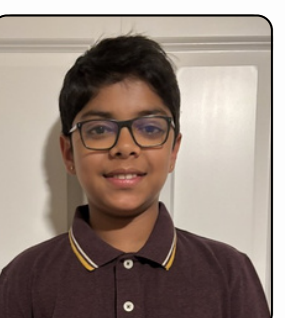
**Roneel Sharma**  
Lewis Center, OH



**Siddhanth Singaraju**  
Westborough, MA



**Arav Siruvole**  
Milpitas, CA



**Vibhav Srinivas**  
Okemos, MI



# Senior Geography Bee



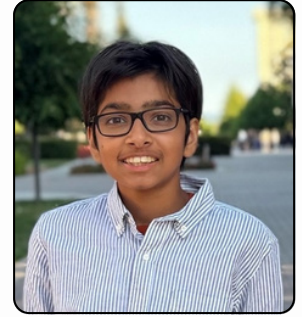
**Ritam Talukder**  
Poughkeepsie, NY



**Praneeth Tangirala**  
Suwanee, GA



**Abhay Vemuri**  
Saratoga, CA



**Akshay Vemuri**  
Saratoga, CA



**Rishith Venkat**  
Voorhees, NJ



**Anay Verma**  
Phoenix, AZ

## NOT PICTURED

Rohit Aute  
Shreyan Basu  
Darthrik Reddy Eruravarm  
Avahan Gautam  
Aarush Gupta

Mayank Karanam  
Rushil Kelapure  
Anish Madhavaram  
Shourya Mogulothu  
Samarth Nallani  
Sundaresh Narayan

Ashwin Nimishakavi  
Ishat Parikh  
Vivek Raval  
Aaryan Shah  
Ishaan Shah  
Jiyan Singh

Aanya Upadhyaya  
Teja Varanasy  
Prabhav Vashishth  
Vihaan Vishwanath  
Nihal Vivek



# Learning Journey as a Volunteer at NorthSouth

Never thought that I would be in contact with Dr. Ratnam Chitturi when I first was asked to help the then Chapter Director for Houston Chapter of North South Foundation (NorthSouth) in 2008. It was a simple request from a friend who wanted me to help her conduct the Regionals in the role of Technical Coordinator (TC). All I had to do was to learn the rules of all the contests and find someone who would print the material for free and if not, she would get me some contact who would help me. She gave me the phone number of Dr. Chitturi to contact for any major issues that I may have. I did not know at that time who he was.

That was the first time I had to take responsibility as a volunteer and as a TC. The CD answered many questions based on her experience and for others, I had to call Dr. Chitturi. He seemed to me like a God sitting in Chicago guiding all the hundreds of volunteers at various centers 24/7. That's when I realized who he was and how he built this organization, the scholarships given in India and the connection between the two worlds of NorthSouth, US and NSF India. I used to wonder how he could find time to talk to me so much in detail.

When I realized the unique formula developed by Dr. Chitturi, a true Gandhian in his thoughts and deeds, who never stops learning new subjects and whose tireless efforts made the foundation so service oriented, and other founders that children of India as well as children of the US are benefited though differently my interest grew and my decision to work for this organization strengthened. In both the cases, educational excellence is promoted while the path of empathy provided scholarships to children in India.



Started as a Technical Coordinator in the year 2009, I took over as Chapter Director in 2012, conducted Nationals in 2017, was a National Team member from 2017 to 2020, led the sub-group with the task of redefining vision, mission, and values in 2020 as part of Core Team of Transition when Dr. Chitturi planned to retire, and worked as US Coordinator for India Scholarships from 2020 – 2025. It was a total of 16 years of journey serving as volunteer with North South Foundation. It is a journey of taking responsibility with the sole objective to serve, providing leadership, working with a team of co-volunteers who are as passionate or more passionate than me to serve the community through NorthSouth. My learning journey is the connecting chain of all these moments of great satisfaction and learning.

While my first inspiration came from Dr. Chitturi, Mrs. Chitturi was an inspiration in a different way. She would acknowledge every check received by North South Foundation by calling the donors and thanking them no matter what the amount is. She always insisted that children should not go hungry when they participate in regional contests and more so, during Finals. She used to carry cotton T-shirts with Gandhi's picture with his quotes and sell them at a nominal price. One can notice a broad smile

on her face if someone wears these T's. I can see clearly, without her support and care, Dr. Chitturi would not have been able to do so much for the NorthSouth.

Dr. Balu Natarajan, who took over as CEO after Dr. Chitturi's retirement, aimed to transform NorthSouth into a more professional organization. The energy he put into the organization was an amazing feat one should learn from.



How can I forget when his whole family, including his parents, got involved in hosting several meetings at his home?

Almost every volunteer I came across contributed to my learning in some form or the other. The love I received from the parents, the children and my co-volunteers was beyond any words that can be described. With support from all around, within 5 years, Houston Chapter conducted the National Finals in 2017. 5 – 6 years before the National team decided to award Learning Journey awards, Houston Chapter started giving these awards to children based on individual grades. If the smiles on the faces of children are any indication, we had them plenty. For two years, Houston



chapter conducted an experiment in Geography and Science subjects on Sunday afternoons. Children from kindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> grade used to participate in an environment where children learn from other children. Topics were given in advance, and presentations were made by children who are interested and present to the class. It was a true learning journey for every child including me. I cannot forget the enthusiasm and satisfaction I saw in the eyes of even young children of even the 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

I know a young child who gave his kiddy bank savings of \$250 after listening to me saying how the money is utilized for scholarships. I know my team who worked for Regionals as well as for Finals how meticulously plan and work hard to conduct the contests. I, along with them, learned how to raise funds. We all learned how to successfully conduct Finals with more than 400 volunteers for Finals in 2017. Learned from a young girl in middle school, who wanted to help in any way she could, how enthusiastic and determined one can be to serve. She continues to be one of the most valuable volunteers of the Houston team even today when she is currently in college. Learned how to mentor from a co-volunteer, another convenor at National Finals.

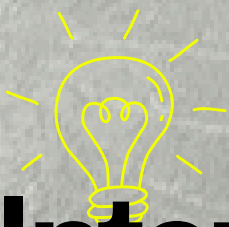
Interactions with India team is different in its own way. Scholarships to Indian students to help them get through their undergraduate program is one of the tenets on which the NorthSouth organization is built. 4 – 5 years of my volunteering as a coordinator for scholarships truly humbled me further. I visited the houses of several scholarship recipients and interviewed them. It was eye opening to know that the scholarships are truly helping those in need and as per the norms approved by the boards of both the US and India organizations.

Overall, my learning journey of 16 years through NorthSouth is a chapter that lives with me throughout my life. The experiences taught me to be humble, compassionate, and to work with so many talented and selfless volunteers. Everyone I worked with has in their minds a clear understanding of the objectives of the organization.

I could not have asked for more.

- Sai Rachakonda





# Intermediate Brain Bee



**Myreen Ahsan**  
Friendswood, TX



**Ayush Ajay**  
Frederick, MD



**Swanik Bari**  
Monroe, NJ



**Ayan Biswal**  
Bel Air, MD



**Chaithanya Budida**  
Okemos, MI



**Avika Chandak**  
Olathe, KS



**Vihan Chaudhary**  
Chesterfield, MO



**Rohan Chellapilla**  
New Providence, NJ



**Pranshi Chinta**  
Paradise Valley, AZ



**Dhiraj Garugu**  
Frisco, TX



**Surabi Janakiraman**  
Buffalo Grove, IL



**Ram Jhaveri**  
Katy, TX



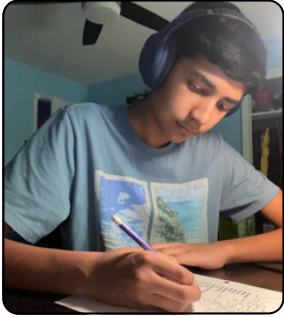
**Sakshi Joshi**  
Miami, FL



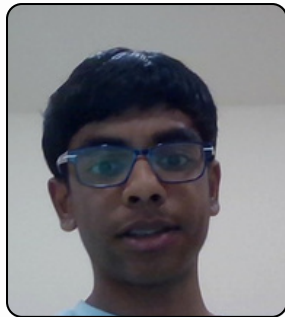
**Nishka Kalani**  
San Jose, CA



## Intermediate Brain Bee



**Nimish Khairnar**  
Princeton, NJ



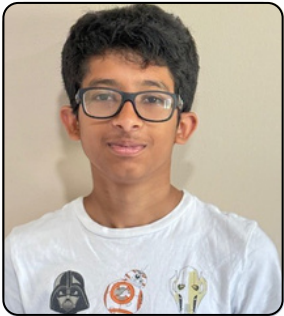
**Srijay Kora**  
Princeton, NJ



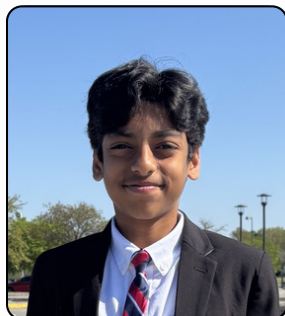
**Vishank Kotha**  
Frisco, TX



**Srivatsan Marimuthu**  
Acton, MA



**Arjun Movva**  
Plainsboro Township, NJ



**Aarush Panga**  
Elkhorn, NE



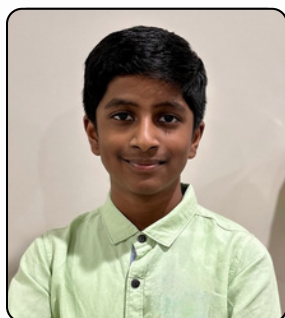
**Shlok Patil**  
Austin, TX



**Oviya Pugazhendhi**  
Kansas City, KS



**Rishabh Rajesh**  
Hoffman Estates, IL



**Nishant Shedada**  
Bettendorf, IA



**Anvita Sista**  
Perrysburg, OH



**Poorvi Sreekanth**  
San Jose, CA



**Janani Sudarshan**  
Cary, NC



**Yusra Syeda**  
San Ramon, CA



**Saanvi Veeramaneni**  
Princeton, NJ



**Akshay Vemuri**  
Saratoga, CA



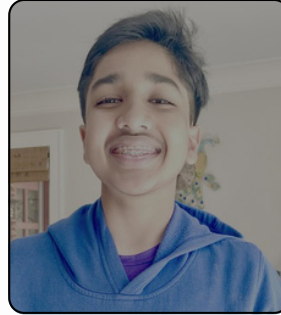
## Intermediate Brain Bee



**Anay Verma**  
Phoenix, AZ



**Meghana Wuppallapati**  
Irvine, CA



**Ryan Santosh**  
Los Gatos, CA

### NOT PICTURED

**Shreyan Basu**  
**Aadhithya Devarajan**  
**Sraavya Doddapaneni**  
**Aarush Gupta**  
**Meera Iyer**

**Ajishveera Jayachandran**  
**Sri Diya Kalavakuru**  
**Anirudh Kiran**  
**Anjana Mattegunta**  
**Shourya Mogulothu**

**Sian Nissam**  
**Sashwat Padhi**  
**Dhiya Padmanabhan**  
**Rananjay Parmar**  
**Tanirika Rajeev**

**Vibhav Rao**  
**Rohan Saha**  
**Jiyan Singh**  
**Esha Srinivasan**  
**Anika Yenamandra**



# The Place To Bee

When I am asked to think about my time with the North South Foundation, I am surprisingly never reminiscent of the actual competitions. Rather, I hold fond memories of the volunteers, the college campuses NorthSouth allowed me to explore, and the silent car rides home with my father's gentle reminders of what went well and what didn't.

I was introduced to NorthSouth at a fairly young age and remember it being an annual event as normal as any national holiday. It was the background music to my growing up, like spelling bee lists taped to the fridge, vocabulary flashcards stuck inside chapter books, and speech topics scribbled onto the backs of math worksheets. It seeped into my everyday life so seamlessly that I didn't even realize how much I was learning outside the four walls of my actual school.

I competed in a fair number of NorthSouth offered events like spelling, vocabulary, math, and public speaking. And each contest taught me something very similar: what to do when I didn't win. NorthSouth, akin to a parent, had seen my first academic failures but also how I learned to grapple with them. This organization did exactly what it was created to do: nurture me.

North South Foundation was a conducive and safe environment for me to mess up. Although NorthSouth itself is an academic tournament, it acted as a training ground that prepared me for larger competitions in high school and fostered life skills that would provide me with strength in college. In a world that is woefully obsessed with medals and resumes, NorthSouth quietly reminded me that the best learning comes from the moments nobody else would ever see: the building stress in the car, the extra hour reviewing words, and the decision to show up again. It's why I still walk into new rooms like college lecture halls, job interviews, or crowded auditoriums, with mature confidence.

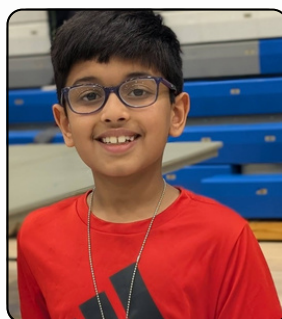
Years later, I read about NorthSouth's scholarships for underprivileged students in India, and I understood what made this foundation so rare. My tiny registration fee was a huge part of sending someone across the world to college, and I realized NorthSouth was never about me at all. It was about showing kids like me how to fail, learn, and consecutively lift someone else up while doing it.

The North South Foundation made me an excellent competitor, yes. But it also taught me that excellence isn't a moment on stage, it is the lifelong art of screwing up and showing up anyway. It is the largest and yet the lightest prize that I carry with me wherever I go.

-Hima Manne, incoming UNC Chapel Hill freshman (neurology major)



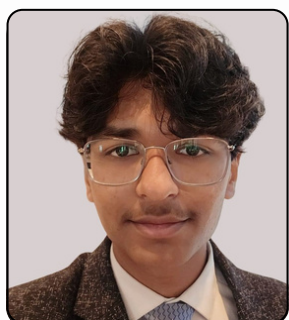
# Senior Brain Bee



**Arnnav Kolluru**  
Renton, WA



**Riya Koya**  
Carmel, IN



**Saisurya Lakkimsetti**  
Martinez, GA



**Akchara Mukunthu**  
Sammamish, WA



**Tanishka Parmar**  
Cherry Hill, NJ



**Vedanti Patil**  
Austin, TX



**Amogha Patwari**  
Glendora, CA



**Sanvi Porumalla**  
Coppell, TX



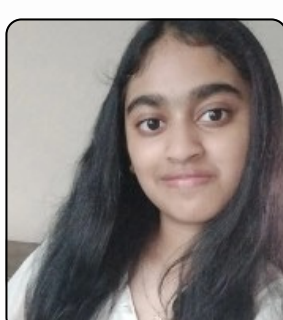
**Armaan Syed**  
San Ramon, CA



**Sheavitha Vijeyakumar**  
Pembroke Pines, FL



**Mahima Wuppalapati**  
Irvine, CA



**Sunidhi Varghese**  
Frisco, TX

## NOT PICTURED

Sanjana Avvaru  
Jind Kaur  
Pranav Menedal  
Marsha Nath  
Navnith Naveen Prabhu  
Vishakha Rao  
Yalini Sampathkumar  
Siddarth Sankar  
Sahil Thorat

Chaitra Thummala  
Archith Venkat



## Roots Without Soil

I crossed continents before my first breath  
A child born to wander,  
Shifting between worlds like sand in a storm.  
My heart beat to the rhythm of unfamiliar songs  
Each word a foreign flavor on my tongue  
Each face a stranger's mask  
Every smile a question I couldn't answer.

I never learned the language of roots  
Yet I felt the soil pull beneath my feet  
Even when there was none to hold me.  
I was planted in places where the ground was cold  
Where the scent of home was only a dream  
And the earth beneath my shoes felt like someone else's.

In one house, I was a shadow by the door,  
An observer of gestures I couldn't grasp.  
The kitchen smelled of strange spices,  
The walls spoke in voices I couldn't translate,  
And the children's laughter rang like music  
But the notes were just out of reach.  
They played, their hands forming bonds I could never touch,  
And I stood, mute, at the edge of their world,  
Invisible in their easy rhythm.

At recess, I was left to watch from the sideline,  
A stray, unnoticed.  
I wanted to speak, to fit in,  
But the words twisted in my chest  
Like knots in a tangled vine.  
My feet, unfamiliar with the dance,  
Tried to follow the others,  
But they moved like waves,  
And I was an island in a vast, unfamiliar sea.

Each day, I learned to bury my loneliness deeper,  
The tears dammed behind walls of pride,  
A river too wild to let flow.  
When asked where I was from,  
I shrugged—  
How could I answer when I wasn't sure myself?  
The question was a needle,  
Poking holes in my fragile sense of self,  
And the silence that followed was louder  
Than any words I could offer.





But even in the solitude,  
I found strength in the cracks,  
A quiet whisper that grew louder with each step.  
I planted my own roots in the spaces between,  
A slow and steady growth,  
Not of soil or place,  
But of resilience.

In every new house,  
I tried to leave a trace of myself—  
A small act of defiance,  
A footprint where none had been before.  
But even when I couldn't speak their language,  
Even when my voice seemed lost among the crowd,  
I was learning how to bloom without permission.

The court was where my heart raced,  
But the ball passed me by,  
A reminder that some games are never meant for me.  
So I played alone,  
And in my solitude,  
I learned to stand tall,  
To grow stronger in the absence of a team.  
Each tumble, each fall,  
Was a root planted deeper in the soil of who I was becoming.

Now I know:  
Belonging isn't about fitting into a place,  
It's about planting yourself where you stand,  
Even when the ground feels alien.  
Roots can stretch across oceans and highways,  
And still, the earth holds you.  
I don't need a home to be whole,  
Because I carry all the pieces within me—  
A traveler not lost,  
But finally finding the courage to bloom.

-Meenakshi Pradeep  
Rising senior, Milwaukee, WI





# Senior Essay Writing



**Kaveesh Balaji**  
Cary, NC



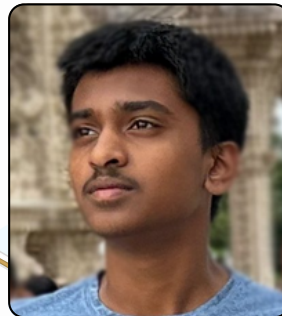
**Sara Kansal**  
Bothell, WA



**Akchara Mukunthu**  
Sammamish, WA



**Pragnya Mysari**  
Saint Augustine, FL



**Anish Palwai**  
Cary, NC



**Aarush Panga**  
Elkhorn, NE



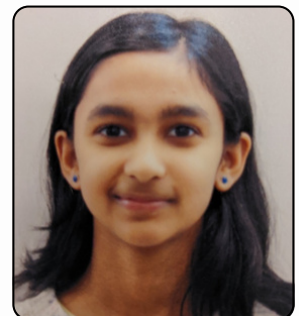
**Tanishka Parmar**  
Cherry Hill, NJ



**Saanvi Polishetty**  
Frisco, TX



**Amogha Patwari**  
Glendora, CA



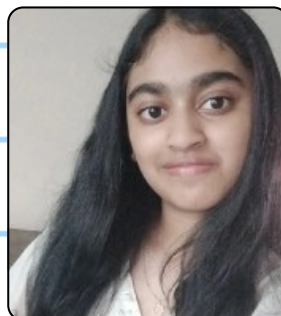
**Sanvi Porumalla**  
Coppell, TX



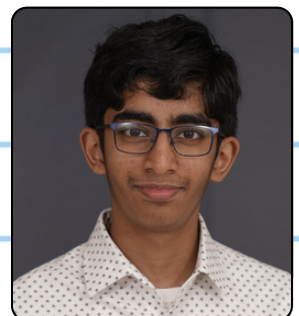
**Vidyuth Srinivasan**  
Plano, TX



**Armaan Syed**  
San Ramon, CA



**Sunidhi Varghese**  
Frisco, TX



**Saharsh Veeramaneni**  
Princeton, NJ



# Senior Essay Writing

## NOT PICTURED

Pranaya Jayakumar  
Jind Kaur  
Pranav Menedal  
Ramsagar Menon  
Pranav Mungara  
Marsha Nath  
Navnith Naveen Prabhu  
Mayank Pitale  
Nikitha Ramesh  
Yalini Sampathkumar  
Arav Shrivastava  
Aadhav Sriram  
Ishaana Vishwanath

### My Experience In the North South Foundation Bees

*I started my North South Foundation journey in 2023. I have loved being part of these tests over the past few years. It has challenged me into working on new things and learning new concepts.*

*Apart from learning new things in general, I am learning things that will help me in the future and in school. This program has encouraged me to work on harder topics as well.*

*In my journey so far, I have done the math bee, the science bee, and the spelling bee. I have been able to learn advanced topics and practice them to see what I know and what I need to learn.*

*Knowledge is a Bee  
The quiet hymn as it passes by,  
On the open flower field.  
But it carries more than pollen,  
Of the plants now grown and healed.  
It hovers over houses and schools,  
Over children fast asleep.  
In the mind of every living being  
It flies and goes down deep.  
Some may call it worth less,  
But it's what many people want to be.  
Fluttering around,  
Knowledge is a Bee.*

-Sukriti Parihar, 5th grade  
Daisy Brooks Elementary School  
Fremont, Michigan



## *Confronting Accountability: The Blame Game*

*Abhiram Jetty*

*Not my fault. Never my fault.* I stepped back furtively even though my whole family could still see me. I felt like a prisoner of war trapped in an open, echoey interrogation room where every word I said could be used against me—I could make no mistakes. I felt exposed, naked to the sharp words coming my way. But still, I stood my ground. Every volley of blame was reciprocated with a volley of my own. Blaming my mother, my father, and my brother as long as it would take the blame off of me. I was hoping for just one of my tenuous arguments to strike anyone as reasonable.

I lost that argument that day. It was my fault that our dinner was burnt. It was my fault that I hadn't turned off the stove when the timer rang. My fault. After understanding that my flimsy argument wasn't going to work, I ran into my room, slammed my door, and buried my reddened face into my pillow. The shame traveled through my body in waves, making me feel sick. But more painful than the shame was the guilt. Deep down, I knew it was my fault all along. Yet, I continued to argue and blame others. I turned a trivial matter into an emotional mess just by avoiding blame. I vowed to myself that from then on I would be more accountable for my mistakes.

That time came sooner than I expected. Just a few weeks later, I opened my refrigerator looking for something to eat, but instead found a bottle of orange soda hidden behind some curries. It seemed like it had intentionally been concealed from me and my suspicion was only confirmed when my father entered the kitchen and seemed surprised that I found the bottle. He tried to explain that he hid it from me since I had braces and was therefore exceptionally susceptible to cavities, but I would have none of it. Frustrated, I accused him of keeping secrets from me and an argument soon ensued.

I defended my point with everything I had, determined not to lose this time. I wove my words in the most convincing way possible. Even so, this argument ended the same way they all did: emotions took control of me and I helplessly retreated. Running into the bathroom, I felt ashamed. The same terrible feeling as before, pulsing through me. But as I washed the tears off my face, I remembered something. Didn't I make a vow to be more accountable? I thought about it for a while and although I didn't agree with my dad's decision, my perspective changed. Maybe he just didn't want his son to get any more cavities.

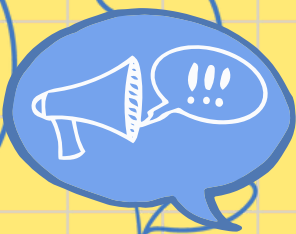
Maybe he really did just want the best for me.

After much deliberation, I decided that the right thing to do would be to apologize. Although I hadn't been faithful to my vow, I knew I needed to reform, or I'd always be adamant and irresponsible. I timidly made my way to the study room where my dad was working and apologized. All I could manage was one word: "Sorry." But it was very difficult to say. I felt liberated, yet exposed. Disencumbered, yet revealed. Unburdened, yet unmasked. With just that one word, I asked for forgiveness. But more than that, I admitted I was wrong. The argument I spent so long crafting and reinforcing hadn't been invalidated by my dad. It had been invalidated by me.

Even after my apology, I wasn't fully accountable yet. I was just a fledgling who fought the wind and learned to fly. I went outside, breathing in fresh air as I pondered my apology. It was hard to admit I was wrong, but I knew it was the right thing to do. I felt oddly relieved; I wouldn't have to worry about the tension in the air the next time I walked past my dad. It's often easy to blame others, but this usually leads to fighting and unnecessary shame. As someone who has learned this lesson, I disapprove of people who are unwilling to accept blame. Everyone is at fault sometimes and the sooner we can accept that, the sooner we can fix our shortcomings. Otherwise, we'll be stuck in an endless cycle of making mistakes and being blamed. On that fateful summer day, I began my journey to become more accountable and realized that accepting blame isn't a bad thing.



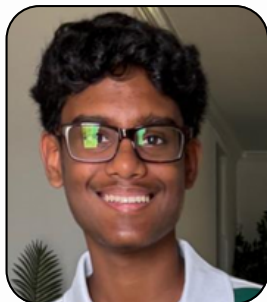
# Senior Public Speaking



**Kaveesh Balaji**  
Cary, NC



**Anish Gowda**  
Brookfield, WI



**Swanik Mannem**  
St. Augustine, FL



**Akchara Mukunthu**  
Sammamish, WA



**Pragnya Mysari**  
St. Augustine, FL



**Anish Palwai**  
Cary, NC



**Amogha Patwari**  
Glendora, CA



**Saanvi Polishetty**  
Frisco, TX



**Harini Srinivasan**  
Fort Mill, SC



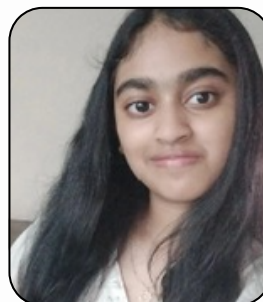
**Vidyuth Srinivasan**  
Plano, TX



**Charvi Thanakanti**  
Alpharetta, GA



**Amrutha Turlapati**  
St. Augustine, FL



**Sunidhi Varghese**  
Frisco, TX



**Sheavitha Vijeyakumar**  
Pembroke Pines, FL



# Senior Public Speaking

## NOT PICTURED

Viswajeeth Ashok  
Esha Cheedella  
Darsh Gajera  
Ananya Hariharasudhan  
Nidhish Inumala  
Pranaya Jayakumar  
Rohin Kudeti  
Pranav Menedal  
Ishita Menon  
Ramsagar Menon  
Aditya Narayan  
Marsha Nath

Darsheel Paila  
Mayank Pitale  
Aarish Reddy  
Aadhav Sriram

## Where Purpose Meets Passion

I am a middle schooler from New Hampshire. I am really passionate about puzzles. When I was really young around four years old, my parents always gave me puzzles to solve and I loved solving them. I would spend hours doing hundred piece puzzles and sometimes even more. It was clear to my parents that I was passionate about solving problems and that I could get really good at them, really quickly. So then I heard from one of my friends that his brother was teaching him how to solve the rubik's cube, so I decided to join along and take it seriously. When I had learned to solve the rubik's cube I thought what if I could take this to the next level, by being able to solve it faster or even compete in a few competitions, so I started working towards my goal. I was only around six years old and doing this was a little difficult but using my resources I was able to self teach myself. When I was around seven I could do it in around forty seconds which I thought was pretty good considering how young I was. By now I knew that I had really developed a passion for cubing so I invested in better, higher quality speed cubes and before I knew it I was in competitions. My first competition went somewhat well and I did just as well as I was doing during my practices at home. It was super cool finally being able to compete in an actual competition. I was quite nervous but I did just as well as I thought I could and it felt as if I was just practicing at home. After the competition I wanted to get even better, so I started watching YouTube videos daily so I could improve. I was learning new algorithms, and better habits to become more efficient. Eventually I cut my time down to thirty seconds which was a big improvement for me and I took a little bit of a break from cubing to learn a different skill. Now, I am back still within thirty seconds but now I created a YouTube channel where I focus on spreading the knowledge and everything I learned on my journey of cubing. I've started sharing my cubing knowledge with friends at school and in my neighborhood, as more people have shown interest. It's a great way to inspire others and build a community around it. I mainly turned my hobby into creating content but I still try to improve by practicing daily and learning new algorithms so I can solve faster, improve my knowledge in cubing, and grow on YouTube.

- Yuvaan Gulati



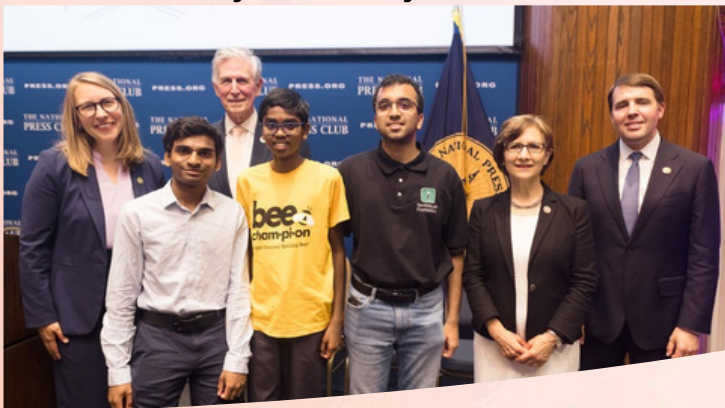
# What can you gain from keeping in touch with the NorthSouth community?

- ALUMNI RELATIONS DIRECTOR, HARSHIL GARG

After volunteering in so many different areas of North South Foundation, I have met a lot of passionate volunteers, both adults and youth, and have interacted with many students to inspire them to continue learning. Yet I realized something: When our volunteers go to college or even graduate from college, they often do not turn back.

## Firstly, why should youth volunteer?

As a youth volunteer, I realized so many new things about myself that I didn't earlier. While I used to participate in the math bees when I was younger, my interests completely changed in high school: I developed an interest in history and created a website ([nalandaguides.com](http://nalandaguides.com)) and Instagram page (@harshil.the.historian) to help my peers with their AP-level history courses. I initially didn't realize where this passion would take me. Yet I soon found an opportunity to bring this passion to NorthSouth by starting their history coaching program and serving on many Geography Meet the Pro sessions as the "History Pro." Seeing so many young history buffs and their parents look up to me made me realize that I was truly made for history and that I should feel proud of giving back to the community in this way.



At the Press v Politicians Spelling Bee with Bruhat Soma and other Congressional Representatives

Secondly, I took on my San Jose chapter as the youngest ever Chapter Director in my 11th and 12th grades (2021 and 2022). I wasn't sure how I would handle running the entire event, but this led many other youth to take on the CD or ACD role in their chapters. Currently we have around 5 chapters run by youth!

## Secondly, why should you volunteer during or after college?

Many of you will move out of state for college or even for internships or jobs. As you know, the real world can be lonely and intimidating, and we want to provide you all with a community you can always rely on. As I have gone to Rhode Island for college, DC for internships, and many other places, I have always been warmly welcomed by members of the NorthSouth community—I volunteered at the Boston chapter and even welcomed 2024 Scripps champ Bruhat Soma at the Press v Politicians Spelling Bee in DC. Our team members all over the nation are always happy to welcome new people into their local community, so all you have to do is stay in touch with our organization and you'll always have a home wherever you end up.

As I continue to foster relations with our former competitors and form a community of NorthSouth alumni, I hope to see many of you at any of our events throughout the nation—whether it's the regional contests, national finals, or even other fundraising or marketing events. Just **fill out the form in the QR code linked here**, and we'll add you to our internal database of alumni interested in helping out!

**ALUMNI SCAN HERE**



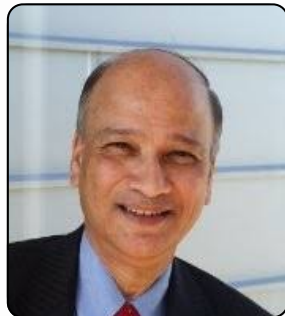




# North South Foundation Board Of Directors



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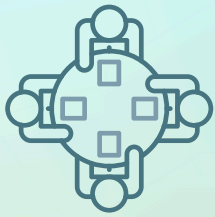
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**Siva Vavilala**  
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**Visa Meyyappan**  
Chief Administration Officer



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# LIFE'S MOST IMPORTANT LESSON

As I stepped up to the microphone under the bright, hot lights, my heart was racing and my legs were shaking as I prepared to spell my word.

After what felt like hours the pronouncer finally spoke, “Your word is codswallop,” she said.

Immediately, I exhaled and a smile stretched across my face as the word began to form in my mind. After asking for origins, alternate pronunciations, and definitions to make sure I was going to spell it right, I said, “Codswallop. C-O-D-S-W-A-L-L-O-P.” “That is correct,” said the pronouncer.

I exhaled and returned to my seat, one of only 10 spellers left sitting on the stage of the New Jersey Regional Scripps Spelling Bee after countless rounds of spelling starting with 75 students. I found my parents in the audience and gave them a smile. I knew I could win this. I knew I could get to Scripps.

At last, Speller #7 was called again and I stepped up to the microphone once again. “Your word is valerian,” the pronouncer said slowly.

Immediately I started to panic and my mind went blank. I’d never seen this word before, and couldn’t find anything in the origin or definition to help me decipher it. As time expired, I knew I had to resort to my best guess. “V-E-L-E-R-I-A-N,” I spelled shakily.

“I’m sorry, that’s incorrect,” the pronouncer said.

My heart broke in that moment. I felt all the work I had done, all the time I had spent, all the hours that passed countlessly spelling word after word, at school, during lunch, after school, and on the weekends shatter in front of my face. This was my first year entering Scripps and my last year of eligibility. I had spent 3 hours every day for almost a year working for this day and it had all crumbled before me.

Later that night when I got home from the bee, a realization hit me. Even though Scripps was over doesn’t mean my spelling journey had to be. Soon after, I discovered the North South Foundation, and decided to enter the spelling bee.

But this time, I would try a different approach. I realized that the Scripps Bee was my first time ever spelling on a stage in front of an audience, and on top of that the stakes and pressure were incredibly high. For the NorthSouth Bee, I decided to set a reasonable goal. I told myself I would place in the top three no matter what it took.

A month later, I stepped through the doors of Pond Road Middle School in Princeton, New Jersey, excited to compete again. I expected to find it to be a high-stakes and intimidating environment, but was relieved to see it was friendly and welcoming. During the written test alone, I was able to make so many new friends (who I am still in touch with now) and I was so much more relaxed then on the Scripps stage.



Finally, I entered the auditorium for the oral round. When my name was called for my word, I expected my heart to beat faster and my legs to shake, but the complete opposite happened. The other contestants around me gave reassuring smiles and the judges looked at me with confidence. Whenever someone got a difficult word like septuplets or dachshund, everyone rooted for each other to spell it correctly. It was like we were all a team.

Later in the day, I found out I got third place. I had reached my goal. Being able to finally reach a milestone that I had set after almost a year of dedication to spelling meant the world to me. However, it wasn't just the tangible results that made me feel fulfilled, it was the lessons I learned along the way. After coming up short on Scripps after months of hard work, I could have thought, given up or let disappointment cloud my judgement.

Instead, I had faith in my hard work, and knew that I could keep going and pursue other bees. The way I changed my mindset in that moment has shaped a world full of new experiences for me, and my journey has given me the confidence to work hard in other areas of my life including journalism, writing, and public speaking. Not only that, but it has shown me that I am able to step out of my comfort zone and succeed at anything I put my mind to.

-Ellis Sobers



## NEXTGEN TITLE LLC: The Title Company for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century

In today's fast-paced, technology-driven world, real estate transactions demand more than just tradition - they demand innovation, efficiency, and trust.

NEXTGEN TITLE LLC is meeting that challenge head-on, proudly earning its reputation as "The Title Company for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century."

**NEXTGEN TITLE LLC was founded with a clear mission:**

to revolutionize the title and escrow experience through cutting - edge technology, streamlined operations, and exceptional client service. Recognizing that buyers, sellers, agents, and lenders expect more transparency and faster turnarounds, NEXTGEN TITLE has built a modern platform that delivers.

"We believe the future of real estate is here now," says Vijay Borra, Managing Partner at NEXTGEN TITLE LLC. "Our team is passionate about redefining the closing experience, providing the highest level of accuracy and service while embracing the tools and technologies of tomorrow. We're committed to making each transaction smooth, simple, and secure."

As the real estate market continues to evolve, NEXTGEN TITLE LLC remains at the forefront, investing in new solutions and raising the standard for what a title company can be. With its eyes firmly on the future, NEXTGEN TITLE is delivering innovative, client - focused service worthy of the 22<sup>nd</sup> century - today.

Thanks and Regards

**Mary Lucas**

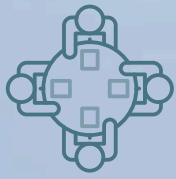
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**Venkata Jitender Chakka**  
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**Sai Sharma**  
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# North South Foundation Launches Inaugural AI Club: Bridging Academia and Industry for Young Innovators

The North South Foundation is thrilled to announce the successful launch of its inaugural **NorthSouth AI Club**, an exciting new initiative designed to introduce students to the fascinating world of artificial intelligence. This club provides a unique platform for aspiring innovators to learn directly from leading experts about how AI is developed and applied across diverse fields.

Each month, students participate in engaging sessions led by professionals at the forefront of AI innovation. These experts share their knowledge, real-world experiences, and insights into the practical applications of AI in their respective industries, offering students an unparalleled glimpse into potential career paths and the future of technology. The club's initial lineup of sessions has been incredibly well-received, covering a wide range of cutting-edge topics:



Mr. Karthik Vedula

- **Making Deployable Health Models with Akshay Swaminathan from Stanford School of Medicine:** We hear about new AI models all the time, but what makes a model truly useful in the real world? Mr. Swaminathan taught students how to create models that people will use, exploring the different environmental factors that affect their deployment in healthcare.
- **How to Effectively Represent Data for Science with Kishore Dhara from Bourntec:** Dr. Dhara showcased how he and his team tackle complex problems, from using AI to detect eye diseases to applying graph theory for effective data representation. Students gained valuable insights into how scientists understand and prepare data before using AI to solve problems.
- **AI in Self-Driving Cars with Niranjana Avadhanam from Nvidia:** Humans go through driver's education, but how do self-driving cars learn to navigate? Dr. Avadhanam shared amazing demos of how Nvidia simulates roads to train their self-driving models even before they hit the road, illustrating the rigorous testing and development involved.
- **AI in Mergers and Acquisitions with Prakash Kanchinadam from Intralinks:** Imagine sifting through thousands of pages of legal documents to verify a company's revenue against its customer growth. While this used to be a tedious task, Mr. Kanchinadam showed students how his company builds AI-powered tools that automate this process, making it much faster and more efficient.
- **Building Hardware for AI Models with Raj Gandhasri from IBM:** As AI models become larger and more widespread, how do we design hardware to keep pace? Mr. Gandhasri demoed his team's Project NorthPole—IBM's AI Chip—designed to run AI models efficiently from the edge to servers, supporting everything from vision to language models. Students saw hands-on demonstrations of these chips and gained insight into the intricate process of making AI models run efficiently and affordably.

The NorthSouth AI Club is more than just a series of lectures; it's a dynamic community where students can ask questions, engage in discussions, and envision their own contributions to the rapidly evolving field of AI. By connecting students directly with industry leaders, the NorthSouth Foundation continues its mission to foster academic excellence and prepare the next generation for success in STEM fields.



## Inspiring Lifelong Growth From the Start

By Narayana Janga, North South Foundation Chief Learning Officer

At NorthSouth, we believe every child carries within them a spark—a unique light waiting to shine. As educators, mentors, and parents, our role is to guide that spark into a flame. That belief led us, two years ago, to launch the **K-12 Learning Journey Program**—a vision-driven initiative to transform the way we support students and families from Kindergarten through Grade 12.

What began as a small pilot program for a targeted group of students has now grown into a full-fledged ecosystem of learning. And this summer of 2025, we are proud to introduce—for the very first time—a **grade-wise curriculum** offering both **foundational** and **advanced learning paths** tailored to each student's pace and potential.

## Why This Program Matters

Education is more than test scores and milestones. It's about building **character, curiosity, and courage**. Our mission is to reimagine the learning experience—not as a one-size-fits-all system, but as a **journey of growth** personalized for each learner.

We aim to inspire students to love learning and to empower parents as active participants in their children's development.

## What Sets the K-12 Learning Journey Apart

- **Grade-Wise Curriculum**

For the first time, we're offering structured foundational and advanced tracks by grade level.

- **Foundational tracks** focus on reinforcing core skills
- **Advanced tracks** challenge students to explore deeper and stretch further

- **Volunteer Coaching Network**

The program is powered by a dedicated group of volunteer coaches, including:

- o Experienced parents
- o Passionate professionals
- o Motivated, high-achieving high school students

These coaches bring energy, empathy, and excellence to the learning environment.



## Parental Engagement That Makes a Difference

We believe parents are not just supporters—they are co-educators. Especially in the early years, parents of young children are encouraged to attend classes and follow along, so they can:

- Reinforce learning at home
- Help their children with homework
- Model positive learning habits

## For Students: Discover, Explore, Become

Whether your child is learning to read or exploring career interests, the K-12 Learning Journey adapts to their needs. From project-based learning and cross-disciplinary thinking to personalized enrichment, our curriculum helps students see **connections**, **find purpose**, and **build inner confidence**.



Students can now choose from **foundational tracks** (to reinforce and master core skills) or **advanced tracks** (to stretch beyond grade-level expectations). Students are given the opportunity to advance in their Math classes after taking a placement test.

### Empowering Youth Coaches: Learning Through Leading

A cornerstone of our program is the **Youth Coach Empowerment Program**—a platform for **high school and college students** to lead by example.

These passionate young adults mentor younger students while gaining real-world experience in:

- Coaching and mentorship
- Communication and facilitation
- Team leadership
- Emotional intelligence

Youth Coaches don't just teach—they **inspire** and **learn through service**.

### The NorthSouth Bee Fellowship: A Launchpad for Future Leaders

For high-achieving and service-minded students, we offer the **NorthSouth Bee Fellowship**—a selective program that allows students to take on leadership roles within the K-12 Learning Journey.

Fellows engage in:

- Educational content creation
- Class and contest facilitation
- Mentorship support
- Team leadership and innovation projects

This year's Fellow, **Mr. Karthik Vedula**, a high school senior from Maryland, exemplified this spirit by helping launch a **100-member AI Club**. Under his leadership, students had the extraordinary opportunity to explore cutting-edge AI concepts and research, guided by guest sessions from researchers at **Stanford University, Nvidia, IBM** and other institutions. His work reflects the transformative impact of empowering youth to lead with vision and purpose.

### For Parents: You Belong on This Journey Too

We understand the evolving challenges of parenting through the K-12 years. That's why we provide:

- Monthly parent workshops
- Family learning reflections
- Tools to support motivation, mindset, and self-discipline at home

We are not just nurturing students. We are building a **community of learning families**.

### Join the Journey

What began as a vision two years ago has now blossomed into a thriving learning community. With the introduction of our new grade-wise curriculum, expanded parental engagement, and youth-led innovation, the **K-12 Learning Journey Program** continues to grow as a powerful force in education.

Whether you're a parent, student, educator, or volunteer, this journey is for you.

Together, let's raise a generation of **curious minds, confident hearts, and compassionate leaders**.



# Celebrate the CHAMPIONS

## Junior Spelling

- 1st** Paranika Ethakota, Houston, TX
- 2nd** Snigdha Pati, Atlanta, GA
- 3rd** Sumukh Tirumalasetty, Phoenix, AZ

## Senior Spelling

- 1st** Shrey Parikh, Los Angeles, CA
- 2nd** Faizan Zaki, Dallas, TX
- 3rd** Advait Nishit, Cleveland, OH

## Junior Vocabulary

- 1st** Hamsini Venkatesh, Manchester, NH
- 2nd** Abhinav Nambudiri, Manchester, NH
- 3rd** Indra Sriram, Dallas, TX

## Intermediate Vocabulary

- 1st** Tarini Nandakumar, Austin, TX
- 2nd** Faizan Zaki, Dallas, TX
- 3rd** Prajnay Chavan, Raleigh, NC

# 2024 winners

## Senior Essay Writing

- 1st** Sai Lalitha Kodukula, Ft Lauderdale, FL
- 2nd** Nivriti Chandrasekar, Portland, OR
- 3rd** Sara Kansal, Seattle, WA

## Senior Public Speaking

- 1st** Arush Sant, Dallas, TX
- 2nd** Anish Gowda, Milwaukee, WI
- 3rd** Shijumita Kumar, Seattle, WA

## Junior Geography

- 1st** Aditya Vanka, Orange County, CA
- 2nd** Aarhan Manish, Omaha, NE
- 3rd** Roneel Sharma, Columbus, OH

## Senior Geography

- 1st** Naman Mishra, Los Angeles, CA
- 2nd** Dhruv Subramanian, Dallas, TX
- 3rd** Rishik Kundu, Cleveland, OH

## Computer Science Bee Level 3

- 1st** Amrit Bollapalli, Detroit, MI
- 2nd** Neil Dembla, Charlotte, NC
- 3rd** Ashay Sarda, Seattle, WA



# *Celebrate the* **CHAMPIONS**

## **Math Level 1**

- 1st** Vayu Kakkad, Seattle, WA  
**2nd** Hamsini Venkatesh, Manchester, NH  
**3rd** Amrith Jathin, Orange County, CA

## **Math Level 2**

- 1st** Raguram Raghulan, Minneapolis, MN  
**2nd** Ritwin Sathish, Seattle, WA  
**3rd** Aaron Wu, Charlotte, NC

## **Math Level 3**

- 1st** Sri Shubhaan Vulava, Louisville, KY  
**2nd** Arjun Suresh, Madison, WI  
**3rd** Rishabh Rajesh, Libertyville, IL

## **Junior Science**

- 1st** Hamsini Venkatesh, Manchester, NH  
**2nd** Sreenidhi Padala, Tampa, FL  
**3rd** Narain Naveen Prabhu, Austin, TX

## **Intermediate Science**

- 1st** Kavin Vignesh, Jacksonville, FL  
**2nd** Srivibhav Mandapaka, Orange County, CA  
**3rd** Avyan Gupta, San Ramon, CA

## **Senior Science**

- 1st** Sanjay Senthilnathan, Libertyville, IL  
**2nd** Ajay Sawant, Raleigh, NC  
**3rd** Siddarth Sankar, Philadelphia, PA

# **2024** *winners*





## MY TIME IN THE WORLD'S HAPPIEST COUNTRY

-Nisha Lakshmanan

I had the privilege to live in Finland, which has topped the list of 'Happiest Countries in the World', for almost a decade now. All I knew about the place was from my grandmother's Geography lessons about Scandinavian countries. Turns out Finland is not all Scandinavian, save the Northern peninsula. It borders the Baltic Sea but has not been classified as a Baltic state since the Second World War. It is considered Nordic but is neither associated with the Vikings nor has any Norse mythology. So, what is Finland?

Finland is truly a land of Thousands of Lakes – no exaggeration there. It is mostly flat, and its neighbor Norway, with its majestic Fjords, once tried gifting it a mountain. Almost three-fourths of the country is forested, making it a haven for nature lovers. Finland has the highest per-capita coffee consumption in the world, a fact that made this Chennaiite feel at home.

The word for the Finnish language, 'Suomi', is also the Finnish word for Finland. My main motivation in learning the language was to decipher ingredient labels, and I did succeed in that. There is a mellifluous lilt to the language, but the most ubiquitous sound you might hear in trams and trains is 'Jo' (pronounced 'yo'), the Swedish word for 'Yeah'! Yes, Finland is bilingual.

Finland's universal education and integrated healthcare systems are world-renowned. The state put my child on the list for daycare and even made a dentist's appointment for me. Children are raised to be independent. They use public transportation, walk around with their reflective vests when it's dark, and play outdoors even in winter. But the most famous Finnish thing is the sauna – it's on UNESCO's Heritage list. At an estimated 3.3 million saunas for its 5.5 million residents, what makes this sweaty deal so special? More than the health benefits, sauna is often seen as an egalitarian, community-building tool.

With one-third of the country in the Arctic Circle, Finland offers extraordinary experiences in the Lapland region – Aurora Borealis (northern lights), husky and reindeer sleds, snowmobile rides on frozen lakes, avantouinti (swimming in a hole cut in the icy waterbody), and above all, a meeting with the 'real' Santa.

For all its technological advancements (everything is digitalized, internet access is a 'legal right') in this homeland of Nokia, Finns prefer to be connected with nature in a very primordial way. Midsummer, juhannus – the time of the midnight sun – is when they make their annual pilgrimage to the mökki (summer cottage), lined by a lake. A typical one will not have running water; not having electricity gives you an extra reason to brag. The smell of birch and the rise of steam, löyly, from the sauna, fishing and swimming, berry picking and mosquito bites are all part of the Finnish summer.

So, what makes this country of 'Angry Birds' the happiest? Is it the untouched, pristine wilderness? Is it the low population density or the corruption-free use of the high taxes that you pay? Is it the sauna, Santa, or the safe spaces for all-weatherproof children? There is this word 'sisu', which may roughly translate to stoic determination – an expression of the Suomi national character. In addition to all these 'S's, I personally felt that the Finns exhibited satisfaction despite limited market choices or food portions, and equanimity while sitting in the hot sauna or swimming in the frigid water. I did not see any pretense; it is not a tourism gimmick (even their billboards say 'probably the best'). Rather than constantly being in the pursuit of happiness, Finland simply chooses to be happy.



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## First Rank

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Prashant Brahmandam  
Senior Spelling Bee  
Hexco Academic  
Junior Vocabulary Bee  
Manish Sarda  
Intermediate Vocabulary Bee  
NeuralWeb/  
Prashant Brahmandam  
Math Bee Level 1  
Memorium of  
Mrs. Shyamala K. Revuluri  
Math Bee Level 2  
Beeram Family  
Math Bee Level 3  
Dr. RSL Prasad  
Junior Science Bee  
Dr. RSL Prasad  
Intermediate Science Bee  
Memorium of  
Mrs. Lalitha Gullapalli  
Senior Science Bee  
Dr. Vasanthi and Krishnan Gowri  
Junior Geography Bee  
MY Donor Friend  
Senior Geography Bee  
NeuralWeb  
Prashant Brahmandam  
Senior Essay Writing  
Mrs. Lalitha and  
Mr. Murthy Kuchibhotla  
Senior Public Speaking  
Dr. Vasanthi and  
Krishnan Gowri  
Intermediate Brain Bee  
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Senior Brain Bee  
K.L. Prasad

**\$500**

## Second Rank

Junior Spelling Bee  
Prasad Nutalapati  
Senior Spelling Bee  
Stone Source Intl  
Junior Vocabulary Bee  
Manish Sarda  
Intermediate Vocabulary Bee  
NorthSouth Houston Chapter  
Core team  
Math Bee Level 1  
Sendhil Revuluri  
Math Bee Level 2  
Beeram Family  
Math Bee Level 3  
Dr. RSL Prasad  
Junior Science Bee  
Dr. RSL Prasad  
Intermediate Science Bee  
Memorium of  
Mrs. Lalitha Gullapalli  
Senior Science Bee  
Mr. Desi Vijay and Mrs. Viji Vijay  
Junior Geography Bee  
NorthSouth Houston Chapter  
Core team  
Senior Geography Bee  
Mr. Desi Vijay and Mrs. Viji Vijay  
Senior Essay Writing  
Mrs. Lalitha and  
Mr. Murthy Kuchibhotla  
Senior Public Speaking  
Mrs. Urmila Reddy Karam  
Intermediate Brain Bee  
Mr. Malla Reddy Karam  
Senior Brain Bee  
K.L. Prasad





# Rank Scholarship SPONSORS

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## Third Rank

Junior Spelling Bee

Jeevan Reddy Bobbili

Senior Spelling Bee

Shri. Bhoodhan Rama Chandra Reddy Vedre

Smt. Shakuntala Vedre

Junior Vocabulary Bee

Emanuel Chekelea

Intermediate Vocabulary Bee

Shri Ramachandra Reddy Surasani

Smt Kamala Bai Surasani

Math Bee Level 1

Siva Vavilala

Math Bee Level 2

Beeram Family

Math Bee Level 3

Dr. RSL Prasad

Junior Science Bee

Dr. RSL Prasad

Intermediate Science Bee

Mr. Sudhakar Tadepalli

Senior Science Bee

Shri. Raja Reddy Buddam

Smt. Laxmi Bai Buddam

Junior Geography Bee

Jyothi Mahesh

Senior Geography Bee

Shri. Shanker Reddy Nookala

Smt. Suguna Devi Nookala

Senior Essay Writing

Mrs. Lalitha and

Mr. Murthy Kuchibhotla

Senior Public Speaking

Mrs. Leela Vishwanath

Intermediate Brain Bee

Maddukuri Family

Senior Brain Bee

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# more than SWIMMING

Avika Gupta

Out of all the things I enjoy doing, swimming is my favorite hobby. I have been swimming since I was a little kid and swam with Little Waves Family Swim School previously. Currently, I swim at swimming club ACE, which stands for Aquatic Club of Elkhorn, in Elkhorn, Nebraska. Both ACE and Little Waves Family Swim School have become a big part of my life. I've been part of ACE for a year now and I learn many things other than swimming. When I first joined, I thought it would just be a fun sport—but I quickly realized it would teach me a lot more than just how to swim faster. Through swimming, I've learned perseverance, patience, teamwork, and the power of believing in yourself, even when things are hard.

My journey with ACE didn't begin smoothly. In fact, I failed my first tryout. That was really discouraging. I had trained and hoped for the best, but when I didn't make it, I felt like maybe I wasn't good enough. But deep down, I still wanted to be on the team. So instead of quitting, I worked harder. I practiced more and stayed determined. And the second time I tried out—I made it! That moment showed me what perseverance really means: not giving up after one failure, but using that failure as a reason to keep pushing forward.

I specialize in breaststroke, which is one of the four main strokes in competitive swimming. Breaststroke takes a lot of coordination and timing—it's not just about strength or speed, but also control. I'm still learning and improving, and while I'm not the fastest swimmer on the team, I've come a long way from where I started. Even though I'm slower than some of the others, I've learned that effort and attitude matter more than speed. Every time I show up to practice and try my best, I'm improving in my own way.

Practice is three times a week—Monday, Wednesday, and Friday—for one hour each time. That may not sound like a lot, but it's intense. Swim practices are hard work. Sometimes I'm tired before practice even starts, but I've learned how to push through that feeling and keep going. Every lap, every drill, every breath takes focus. Swimming has taught me discipline—how to stay committed to something even when it's tough. That lesson has helped me not just in the pool, but in school and other parts of my life too.

One of the best things about being on the ACE team is the friendships I've made. When I joined, I didn't know anyone. Now, I've made so many amazing friends who are always cheering me on. We talk, laugh, and support each other during every practice. Some days are easier than others, but knowing I have people beside me who care makes everything better. We all want each other to succeed, and that makes our team feel like a family.

Swimming has also helped me learn how to be more confident. When I started, I was shy and unsure of myself. I doubted my abilities and felt nervous before every practice. But now, after a year of hard work and growth, I feel proud of what I've accomplished. I know I'm not perfect, but I've learned that showing up, working hard, and not giving up is something to be proud of. Every time I step into the pool, I'm reminded of how far I've come.

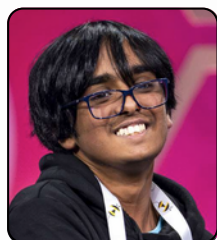
To me, swimming isn't just a hobby—it's a part of who I am. It's where I've learned some of my most important life lessons, like how to keep going when things get hard, how to believe in myself, and how to work as part of a team. I may not be the fastest swimmer, but I am always trying to be better than I was yesterday. That's what swimming—and life—is really all about.



# NORTHSOUTH KIDS SHINING AT MAJOR NATIONAL COMPETITIONS



## Scripps National Spelling Bee Champions



**Faizan Zaki**  
2025



**Bruhat Soma**  
2024



**Dev Shah**  
2023



**Harini Logan**  
2022



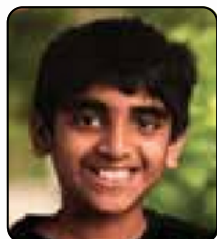
**Rishik Gandhasri**  
2019



**Shruthika Padhy**  
2019



**Sohumi Sukhatankar**  
2019



**Abhijay Kodali**  
2019



**Rohan Raja**  
2019



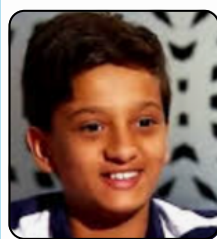
**Karthik Nemmani**  
2018



**Ananya Vinay**  
2017



**Nihar Janga**  
2016



**Jairam Hathwar**  
2016



**Vanya Shivashankar**  
2015



**Gokul Venkatachalam**  
2015

## National Geography Bee



**Nihar Janga**  
2019



**Pranay Varada**  
2017

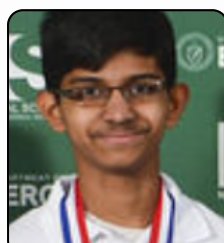
## National Middle School Science Bowl



**Sanjay Senthilnathan**  
2023



**Snigdha Allaparthi**  
2014



**Abhijeet Sambangi**  
2014



**Rishi Nair**  
2016



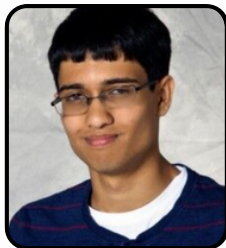
**Karan Menon**  
2015





# NORTHSOUTH KIDS SHINING AT MAJOR NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

## Who Wants to be a Mathematician



**Karthik Karnik**  
2016



**Ankan Bhattacharya**  
2016

## USA Brain Bee



**Harini Venkatesh**  
2024



**Veda Dayananda**  
2020



**Sehej Bindra**  
2018



**Akhil Kondepudi**  
2018



**Hemanth Asirvatham**  
2018

## You Be the Chemist



**Anurag Sodhi**  
2019



**Ankan Bhattacharya**  
2016

## USA Math Olympiad

## White House Science Fair



**Pranavi Chatrathi**  
2023

## USA IMO



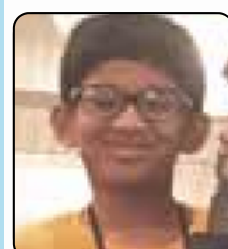
**Shyam Narayanan**  
2015

## Jeopardy Teen Tournament



**Nilai Sarda**  
2023

## National History Bee



**Siddharth Kamannavar**  
2014







# North South

-Kaveesh Balaji

America is a melting pot of different cultures, religions, and ethnicities. Similarly, India shares this diversity. My parents met in this “melting pot,” but they are from different regions of India. More specifically, my mom is from the North (Ahmedabad, Gujarat), and my dad is from the South (Vellore, Tamil Nadu). What does that mean to me? It means that a variety of challenges naturally arise.

Since English was the only common language they shared, I grew up speaking only English — and was ridiculed when my Indian friends asked what language I spoke and where I was from. I never fully understood why they were so divided over which part of India they came from. After all, we were all Indian. Right?

This embarrassment deepened when I dropped out of Hindi school at six years old and joined Tamil school when I was ten. I attempted to learn the language, only to discover that the school wasn’t meant for beginners, but for those already fluent. Students spoke Tamil fluently with each other and with the teachers. I was left behind. On top of that, I couldn’t communicate with my grandparents or cousins — I spoke neither of their languages. Constantly reminded of my limitations, I began to reject my identity while becoming fixated on the divisions within it.

Relentlessly searching for answers, I came to realize something deeper: my mix of North and South wasn’t a weakness — it was a bridge. At home, I saw how my mother’s **dhokla** and my father’s **pongal** were served on the same plate, and how her garba and his Bharatanatyam both told similar stories of devotion. The rigid borders once imposed on me dissolved into something richer. It’s not about North or South, but the shared heartbeat beneath them. Now, I see my parents’ union — and my own blended identity — as a living answer to those childhood questions. Our differences don’t divide us; they give us more ways to belong.

The North South Foundation’s mission — to bridge divides through education and shared humanity — isn’t just an ideal to me. It’s my lived truth. My journey from focusing on divisions to embracing similarities mirrors what the organization stands for: that our differences, whether North or South, matter less than what we build from them. Like NorthSouth, I’ve learned that unity isn’t about erasing borders that were imposed on us, but about finding the threads that weave us together. My parents’ love, my plate of food, my broken Tamil — these aren’t contradictions or restrictions. They’re proof that identity exists in the space between.

As Stephen Covey wisely said, “**Strength lies in differences, not in similarities.**”



## DFWLAND Partners with North South Foundation as Platinum Sponsor :

## BUILDING COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION

**At DFWLAND, our mission has always been bigger than real estate. We believe that true community building starts with empowering people, fostering opportunities, and investing in the next generation.**

This year, we are proud to take another step in that direction by partnering with the **North South Foundation (NSF)** as a Prime Sponsor for its 2025 - 2026 initiatives.

The North South Foundation, a nationally recognized non-profit, has inspired excellence in thousands of young students across the United States through its academic contests in spelling, math, science, and geography. These programs cultivate confidence, discipline, and intellectual curiosity in children while raising funds for scholarships that support higher education for underprivileged students in India.

By supporting North South Foundation, DFWLAND affirms its deep belief that education is the cornerstone of progress - not only for individuals but for entire communities. We see the students who participate in North South Foundation contests as tomorrow's leaders, innovators, and change-makers. Their drive to excel resonates with our own values as a company: to aim high, work hard, and make a meaningful impact.

This sponsorship will enable North South Foundation to expand its reach, enhance the experience of its national competitions, and continue its vital scholarship work. For DFWLAND, it is a way to extend our presence beyond the neighborhoods we develop and into the lives of young people working hard to create a better future for themselves and others.

In announcing this partnership,  
**VIJAY BORRA**, CEO at DFWLAND, shared:

"We're proud to support the North South Foundation's mission of educational empowerment. At DFWLAND, we believe that building strong communities goes hand-in-hand with fostering talent and providing opportunities. This partnership is our way of giving back and investing in the next generation of achievers."

We look forward to seeing the great things that North South Foundation and its students accomplish in the year ahead - and to continuing our own journey of building not just homes and businesses, but also hope, opportunity, and brighter futures.

Thanks & Regards  
**VIJAY BORRA**  
DFWLAND  
+1 (972) 469-2799





## Contest Prep

We offer Quick Prep & Prep Clubs to prepare students for our various contests, and set the right building blocks for success.



## Webinars & Workshops

We organize timely, informative and interesting webinars for parents and youth to learn about a wide range of topics!



## Learning Journey

With our specialized Learning Journey Program, we prepare kids aged 6 to 16 to achieve their career milestones, build social skills, and gain a sense of community!



## Contests

We organize educational contests for K-12 students in the US. Through the years, our students have always succeeded in securing one of the Top 10 spots.

