



Answers to FAQs

नमस्ते ।

Welcome to Shloka Recitation Competition organized by Samskrita Bharati. We are happy that your child(ren) will be taking part in this event. Below are answers to some of the frequently asked questions. If you have other questions, please feel free to send an email to sbshloka@yahoo.com

1) Competition date, time and venue?

We are planning to hold this competition on Sat Nov 1 at SV Temple, Pittsburgh from 1030am to 100pm. For directions, please visit http://www.svtemple.org/temple/cat_index_2.shtml

2) What are the shlokaas selected for the Recitation Competition?

The first sarga of 'bālakāṇḍam' of vālmīki-rāmāyaṇam consists of 100 shlokaas and summarizes the entire rāmāyaṇam and hence, is popularly known as bālarāmāyaṇam or saṅkṣiptarāmāyaṇam. In 2006, we had selected the first 20.5 shlokaas that define who Shri Rama is and his father King Dasharatha's intention to make him the crown-prince. For last year's competition, we had selected the next 20 shlokaas (21 through 40) that describe Kaikeyi's insistence on seeing Rama exiled to forest and making Bharata the crown prince, the ever-dutiful Rama, indeed a role model for all children when it comes to respecting one's parents, going to citrakūṭa forest with his wife Sita and brother Lakshmana, granting younger brother Bharata his (Rama's) pādūke and later proceeding to daṇḍaka forest from citrakūṭa forest to keep his promise of being in exile. This year we have selected the next 20 shlokaas. The shlokaas we have selected are simple and we are confident that children will be able to memorize them given proper guidance and practice time. Audio files in MP3 format are available on our website that can be downloaded and followed for proper pronunciation and meter. The number of shlokaas to be memorized and recited depends on the grade-level of the child (see below).

3) What are the categories that children can compete in and how many shlokaas should they memorize for the competition?

There are four categories based on grade level. The number of shlokaas to be memorized depends on each category as follows:

śiśugaṇaḥ – KG, 1st and 2nd grades – Five shlokaas – 41 through 45

bālagaṇaḥ -- 3rd, 4th and 5th grades – Ten shlokaas – 41 through 50

kiśoragaṇaḥ -- 6th, 7th and 8th grades – Fifteen shlokaas – 41 through 55

yuvagaṇaḥ – high school students – All shlokaas – 41 through 60



- 4) **Would you permit my child to compete in a lower or a higher category? Can my child compete in two categories?**
Sorry. We want all children to participate only in their respective grade-level category. Only one entry per child is allowed in the entire competition.
- 5) **My child knows so many other shlokaas. Can my child recite these other shlokaas?**
We are happy that your child knows other shlokaas. But for this competition, your child should know and recite the shlokaas that we have selected for the child's grade-level category. Please see answer to Q3.
- 6) **Should a child memorize all the shlokaas?**
Children are expected to memorize all the shlokaas in their category. They will be expected to recite all the shlokaas during competition. However, since our focus is on participation and shloka competition is just a means to excite children about reciting shlokaas we encourage all children who have registered to **participate even if they have not memorized all the shlokaas in their category.**
- 7) **What are the prizes?**
All children will get a participation certificate. Top contenders in each of the four categories will be given bonus prizes. The number of top contenders will depend on the total number of participants in a given category.
- 8) **How are the participants judged?**
Judging will be based on the following four criteria:
a) Memory (ability to chant without break, hesitation or confusion)
b) Pronunciation and clarity
i) Diction (crisp and correct pronunciation)
ii) Tone and flow (proper meter to be used)
c) Presentation (posture, mannerism and sincerity of effort)
d) Overall effect (right attitude and feeling of the participant and its effect on the listener).
- 9) **How will I know the time when my child will be required to recite on competition day?**
Many children are expected to participate in this year's competition. And it will be difficult to say exactly when your child's turn will come on the day of the competition. However, we will be sending an email to all parents regarding program day schedule soon after we close taking registrations (typically one week before the competition). This email message will include the time slot (approx 2 to 3 hour window) when your child's category will be up for recitation. We understand that you and your child(ren) may have other commitments but once registered, we are hoping that parents and children would make attending shloka competition a priority on the day of competition.
- 10) **Will there be any practice session that children can attend?**
We intend to hold weekly group practice sessions. Please send an email to SBshloka@yahoo.com for details.



11) Once registered, can my child drop out?

Well, to participate in the Shloka Competition or not is the decision that only you and your child can make. But once you have registered, we urge you to let us know if you and your child are dropping out of the competition. Lot of volunteer time and effort are required to put together such quality programs, and you will agree that it is only fair that you let us know if your child is not participating by sending an email to sbshloka@yahoo.com or calling our e-voice number at **978-268-8406** at the earliest. It would help us plan the event better since no-shows hurt any competition.

If you have more questions, please feel free to send an email to sbshloka@yahoo.com. Have a wonderful time memorizing and understanding the shlokaas 41 through 60 of vālmīki-rāmāyaṇam with your child(ren).

इति शम् । iti śam ।

संस्कृत-भारती-कार्यकर्तृ-गणः । saṁskṛta-bhāratī-kāryakarṭṛ-gaṇaḥ ।

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