

Sanskritabharati weekend camp at AVG, Saylorsburg, PA, USA

Sanskritabharati volunteers of New Jersey organized a weekend camp at Arsha Vidya Gurukulam (AVG) in Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania from March 22nd thru 24th, 2024. The event named Samskrita-tirthayatra was held for the 4th time at AVG. The camp had 120 participants from 40 families from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland Virginia Arizona and Canada. This event is organized with the objective of bringing together families in the North East USA, who are interested in learning, speaking and promoting Sanskritam. Nearly 40 children in the age groups of 3 to 18 were also part of the camp activities.

The volunteers had arranged many Sanskritam learning activities, including class instructions, language games, skits, group games for the benefit and joy of the camp participants. Introductory classes for absolute beginners, anvaya-racana, vakya-vistara, bauddhikam and Ramayanam-based group programs for the mid and advanced level students were part of the activities for the adults.

A team of volunteers belonging to Arsha Vidya Bala Gurukulam (AVBG) planned and executed many activities for the children that participated.. These included rendering shlokas, Vedic Heritage, Sanskritam, Ramayanam-based jeopardy games, skit performances, songs, etc. As part of this, the Ashram manager, Shri Suddhatmata Chaitanya, taught some daily prayer shlokas, their proper chanting, importance and meaning. Per the feedback that we received from the parents, the children had a great time at the Ashram and enthusiastically participated. They are looking forward to be at such events in the near future.

The ashram staff under the guidance of its manager Shri Suddhatmata Chaitanya had made excellent arrangements. All the participants had a very comfortable stay and delicious satvik food during the stay. The camp organizers were able to conduct their planned activities at the various classrooms and at the yoga studio. During the camp conclusion event, Shri Suddhatmata Chaitanya shared with the participants, information regarding the upcoming ashram programs and invited all of them to join and seek Ishvara's blessings during the Lord Dakshinamurti Temple's Kumbabisekham celebrations planned to be held from May 17th thru 19th this year.

The kitchen staff at AVG prepared delicious food and kept the camp participants in good charm. The office staff, room service personnel and others were very kind and made the whole event a relishable experience. Nearly 50% of the participants were first time visitors to the ashram and they look forward to attend the various programs organized by AVG. By the grace of Lord Dakshinamurti, Samskrita-tirthayatra 2024 at Arsha Vidya Gurukulam was a great success and with the excellent support provided by the Ashram, we look forward to having many more participants at this event in the coming years. *Om Tat Sat*