

## NSF APNA Youth Ambassador Program

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A few days before the summer of 2017 officially began, I found out that we would be going to India. I was absolutely excited because I have been waiting for two whole years to go since, we go every two years. My father told me about NSF's APNA program before we left to India. I obviously said yes to this because it combined all of my favorite things such as helping others, communicating, and being a teacher which combines many things I admire. I did this program in 4 days teaching 7th and 8th graders who are very intelligent and bright.

I was super anxious to meet them but all these random thoughts kept coming to me. "What is they don't like me?" "What if they do not understand me?" The day before I was going to go to the school I decided I needed to perfect a few things in myself so that they would understand me and not be scared of me. I tried talking slowly and enunciating my words and tried having an indian accent while I talked. After this I felt a whole lot better.

The first day I walked into the classroom I wasn't nervous at all because I got this amazing opportunity and it is a once in a lifetime situation so I knew that I was definitely ready for it. This program helped me understand that we should be thankful for what we have because not everyone has what we do. This experience had most definitely inspired me to help underprivileged students on learning and in the future I would want to make a change and do something

about it. Almost all of these students were so surprised when I told them how much money you get for placing in the spelling bee in the United States and the expression on their face was priceless which made more of them eager to learn English. I truly loved how many students just strive to want to learn and teaching them was truly an honor.

I wanted to make this once in a lifetime opportunity the best of it so I decided to make this fun so that I would enjoy it but most importantly they would enjoy it and want to learn. This activity that I gave them helped me see what they understood but this also made them communicate and interact with each other so they would understand it not only by asking me but also their peers and while learning also having fun which I realized made the students that were not paying attention to me the day before made them more interested in listening to me.

This program helped me in many ways, not just for my college application, which I still have a few years for so I didn't even think about that, but also for myself. I learned many things while talking to these wonderful kids and I definitely hope I taught them something as well. This also helped me shape into a great human being.

Time flew by and it was the last day teaching these kids. I was really sad and I was really attached to them. One kid came up to me and said "Sister, when will you come teach us again" which proved to me that I accomplished something great this summer. One thing I really loved about these students is the way they respected the teachers as well as me. They welcomed me everyday with a

gigantic smile on their face and greeted me respectfully. I just know all of these kids are going to be such great human beings when they grow up even though half of them already are. It was astonishing to see how much they have learned in the span of 3 days because I was going really fast but still they understood me and were able to do extremely well on the test the 4th day.

I just want to take a moment and thank my family, the principal and vice principal of Anjali School Mr. and Mrs. Vempaty, and more importantly NSF and Mr.Venkat Gade for making this happen for me. It was such an amazing experience and I hope to do something like this again in the future and I hope more students in the future decide to do something like this and teach these children because it truly is incredible.



The picture taken above was on the first day while I was explaining to the students what this workshop was for and why it would help them.



As I stated earlier, these are the 7th and 8th grade students I worked with. It was so fun and I never would've realized my India trip turning into this!



This picture was on the last day. I was talking to them about how proud I was of them and how hard they worked with such short time and gave them

advice for the future.



This was also on the last day. Mr.Vematy gave the top 5 students awards which were the dictionaries and gave everyone certificates for doing such an outstanding job.