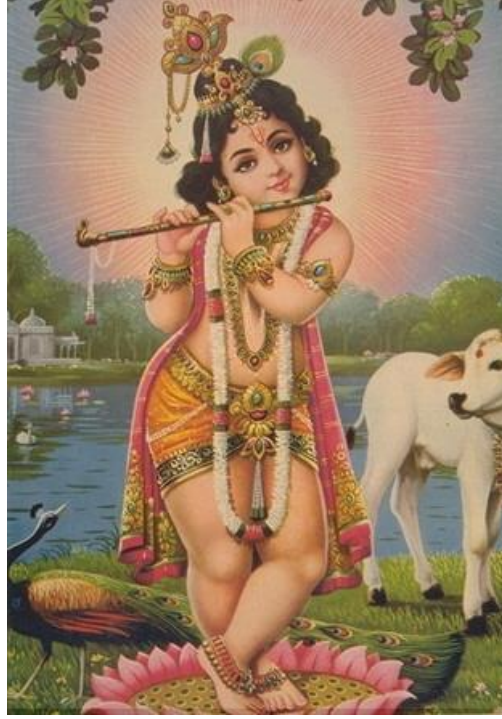




# Bala-Gokulam



|         |       |
|---------|-------|
| Name:   | _____ |
| Shakha: | _____ |
| Phone:  | _____ |

**Rashtra Sevika Samiti**



"Let positive, strong, helpful thought enter into their brains from very childhood"  
- Swami Vivekananda



## Bala-Gokulam

### Inside ...

- Welcome to Bala-Gokulam ..... 1
- Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh ..... 3
  
- Devnagari Alphabets ..... 4
- Shlokas ..... 5
- Bhajans ..... 35
- Sangh Geet ..... 43
- Subhashita ..... 50
  
- Sangh Prarthana ..... 52
- Ekata Mantra ..... 54
- Bhojan Mantra ..... 55
- Ekatmata Stotra ..... 56
- Amruta Vachans ..... 63
- Quotes on Hinduism ..... 66
  
- Surya Namaskar ..... 70
- Sanskrit Commands ..... 74
  
- My friends at Bala-Gokulam..... 75
- Web Sites for Hindu Kids ..... 76
- Work Sheets

## Rashtra Sevika Samiti

### Welcome to Bala-Gokulam

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Gokulam is the place where an ordinary cowherd boy blossomed into a divine incarnation. It is here that Krishna's magical days of childhood were spent and his powers came to be recognized.

Every child has that spark of divinity within. Bala-Gokulam is a forum for children to discover and manifest that divinity. Bala-Gokulam will enable Hindu children in the US to appreciate their cultural roots, learn Hindu values in an enjoyable manner and make good friends. They will also develop a sense of Sewa, Service to humankind.

### Our Goals are ...

- To facilitate children to appreciate, learn and practice Hindu way of life.
- Instill pride and confidence in Hindu children about their identity.
- Raise Hindu awareness in the society around.
- Develop social awareness and leadership skills among children.

### Activities In Bala-Gokulam



Children will have lots of fun while they learn. Activities are planned for their physical, intellectual, social and spiritual development. Weekly activities include:



### Special Events

#### Festivals

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Hindu Festivals like Ganesh Pooja, Raksha Bandhan and Guru Pooja are celebrated with a special focus on children's participation. Children will perform the pooja themselves and the meaning behind the festivals are explained.

### **Hindu Heritage Camp**

Vacation can be magical. That's the time to explore, enjoy and make more friends. Hindu Heritage Camp of HSS conducted during vacations or any other weekends has been a favorite event for the children.

### **Community Service**

Sewa or service is the best way for us to realize the divinity in all and serve the needy. Children from HSS Bala-Gokulam have visited elderly people in convalescent hospital, volunteered at Hindu Mandirs, actively participated in Human Race and have worked with other voluntary groups in serving the community.

### **"I make it a priority" - Seema Shah (16), Houston, TX**

As a Hindu teenager living in America, I make it a priority to participate in cultural or religious activities. The society in this country has a great deal to offer whether it is in education, careers, or recreation. However, it does not give the spiritual and cultural guidance that Hinduism encompasses. Hindu children should realize the importance of their heritage.

The activities offered in Bala-Gokulams are excellent ways for Hindu children to learn about their culture and incorporate the teachings and values in their everyday lives. Furthermore, Bala-Gokulams fosters a productive learning environment that is different from schools.

The breadth of activities from games and exercise to education encourages the children to improve a variety of skills. They also motivate the children to stay committed to the regular Bala-Gokulam classes and partake in the Hindu community events. Thus, Bala-Gokulams are instrumental in providing the necessary cultural and religious education to Hindu children so they may retain and be proud of their Hindu identity.

