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## 2019 GITA DAY FAQs

Any Additional Questions, please send an email to [svbfgitaday.committee@gmail.com](mailto:svbfgitaday.committee@gmail.com). Please as much as possible refrain from calling the SVBF office for questions related to Gita Day.

# 2019 GITA DAY FLYER

## RECITATION COMPETITIONS



**Annual Gita Day – June 23, 2019**  
**SHATKA & FULL GITA Elimination Rounds ONLY on June 22nd**  
**ONLINE REGISTRATION IS NOW CLOSED**

**Please look forward to the registration link in your email and register early.**  
**Walk-in registrations will NOT be entertained (except for Gita Krida).**

**Gita Krida – An exciting and fun-filled Gita Quiz Competition for the entire family!**

**Gita Poster Competition – Expanding awareness and encouraging participation of the entire family!**

**Gita Essay Competition – Expanding awareness and encouraging participation from middle & high school students**

	Category / Age	Topic / Subject
<b>Memorized Recitation</b>	Under 5	8 Verses – Chapter 6
	Ages 5 and 6	15 Verses – Chapter 6
	Ages 7 to 9	25 Verses – Chapter 6
	Ages 10 to 12	35 Verses – Chapter 6
	Ages 13 to 17	Full Chapter (47 Verses) – Chapter 6
<b>Fluent Reading</b>	Age 18 and Above	Full Chapter (47 Verses) – Chapter 6
<b>Gita Talk</b>	Youth (Ages 13 – 17)	उद्धरेदात्मनात्मानं नात्मानमवसादयेत् । आत्मैव ह्यात्मनो बन्धुरात्मैव रिप्प्रात्मनः ॥ 6-5॥
	Adults (Age 18 and above)	
<b>Gita Krida ( Quiz )</b>	See Below	See Below
<b>Gita Essay Competition</b>	See below	See Below

**ALL PARTICIPANTS FOR THE BELOW COMPETITIONS WILL BE JUDGED BASED ON A SINGLE SET OF CRITERIA, REGARDLESS OF AGE. ELIMINATION ROUND FOR THE BELOW COMPETITIONS WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 22ND**

<b>Memorized Shatka Recitation</b>	Any Age	1st Shatka – Chapters 1 to 6
	Any Age	2nd Shatka – Chapters 7 to 12
	Any Age	3rd Shatka – Chapters 13 to 18
<b>Memorized Multiple Shatka Recitation</b>	Any Age	1st Shatka and 2nd Shatka
	Any Age	1st Shatka and 3rd Shatka
	Any Age	2nd Shatka and 3rd Shatka
<b>Memorized Full Gita Recitation</b>	Any Age	Full Gita (18 Chapters)

**\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE \*\*\*\*\***

**JUDGES WILL STRICTLY FOLLOW THE SRIMAD BHAGAVADGITA TEXT BY GITA PRESS, GORAKHPUR. IT IS INCUMBENT ON THE PARTICIPANT TO VALIDATE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HIS/HER BOOK OF REFERENCE AND THIS TEXTBOOK. THE ONLY ALLOWED VARIATION IS CHANTING SLOKAS IN FOUR PARTS (with appropriate sandhi breaks).**

## Gita Krida (Quiz) – 2019 (Sunday, June 23, 2019)

Gita Krida	
What is Gita Krida?	<b>Gita Krida</b> is a fun-filled "Jeopardy" type quiz program for all ages as part of the annual Gita Day event at SVBF. The goal of this event is to encourage everyone to develop more interest in Bhagavadgita, to foster its understanding beyond mere recitation and to enjoy having Gita guide us in daily life by knowing about it in an entertaining and an enjoyable way.
Why a quiz on Gita?	Since the annual Gita Day is a day already packed with various events, it is difficult to add an additional program, but we thought it would be of interest to all, especially the kids and parents to be able to engage in the subject of Gita in an entertaining and educative way.
When is the event?	On the annual Gita day <b>on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 in the afternoon</b> . The time slot has not been finalized yet but it will be an approx. <b>1 hr event between 12-3 PM.</b>
Who can participate?	We encourage you to participate in the quiz as a family. Here are the team composition rules : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each team can consist of <b>2 participants - 1 adult and 1 child</b></li> <li>• Every team <b>must</b> have atleast one child between 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and high school (there will be questions targeted for younger participants only )</li> <li>• Past Gita Krida First Prize winners are not allowed to participate to allow for new registrants to have an opportunity to win <b>{NEW}</b></li> <li>• A family can <b>ONLY</b> participate within one team to allow for fair competition <b>{NEW}</b></li> </ul>
How can I participate?	We prefer that you register between <b>April 15 – June 2</b> via the web link we send you by email.
Is there a limit on number of participants?	Currently we are <b>limiting the participation to 20 teams for the preliminary round. 2 - 4 players can participate in the elimination round, but only 2 out of the 4 people can participate in the main quiz event.</b> <b>{NEW}</b> After elimination rounds of 10 – 15 mins, <b>the top 5 teams</b> will move to the main quiz event.
When is the deadline for registration?	The registration will start on April 15th and will close promptly on June 2nd. The 20 teams who have registered on a <b>first come first served basis</b> will be eligible to participate.
oveWhat is the format of the questions?	The main quiz will be <b>loosely</b> in the format of Jeopardy (not the exact Jeopardy format). The elimination round(s) can be visual, written or oral.
How difficult will the questions be?	We are aiming the quiz to be enjoyable by all at the same time being a bit challenging for the participants. There will be a mix of very easy to hard questions.
Can you give some sample questions?	Sure. Here are some sample questions to give an idea : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the name of the chapter where Krishna talks mainly about devotion ? (Ans: Bhakti Yoga – Ch. 12)</li> <li>• Who narrates the Bhagavadgita to Dhritarashtra ? (Ans: Sanjaya)</li> <li>• Which epic is the Bhagavadgita a part of ? (Ans: The Mahabharata)</li> <li>• What are the 3 types of gunas Krishna mentions in the Gita ? (Ans: Satva, Rajas and Tamas)</li> </ul>
What are the prizes for the event?	While we do not expect anyone to participate in the Gita day for the sake of prizes, we plan to offer our tokens of appreciation and certificates to all participants and cash prizes and mementos to all winners in a format similar to other Gita day events.
How is judging done for the event?	The quiz master's decisions will be final and binding. In case of any questions or disagreements, they can be raised after the event to the event organizers.
Other thoughts?	In case of any issues, we hope that everyone will appreciate the spirit behind the event and give us constructive suggestions for future improvement so that this event can be entertaining and educational for everyone !!!
Next Steps	Please look forward to the registration link we will be sending out by May 1 <sup>st</sup> and register asap to participate in an entertaining and enlightening Gita quiz event !!!

## Gita Poster Competition – 2019 (Sunday, June 23, 2019)

### Rules and Instructions

#### TOPIC: Chapter 6 (Atma Samyama yoga)

1. Only one poster per entry. A poster entry can include an individual or a group. An entire family working on a poster together is highly encouraged
2. A complete poster should include the Title and Author(s) information (name, email address) clearly.
3. We will provide a poster board of size 40 inches by 60 inches. Posters shall have a maximum size of 36 by 48 inches. If printing a poster as one large chart is not viable, you may print as slides (landscape) in A4 size pages. The number of slides cannot exceed 16. Push pins or thumbtacks will be provided to attach the poster to the poster board.
4. Author(s) needs to be present during poster session to field questions from judges. Failure to be present will disqualify your poster from the judging competition.
5. Posters will be judged based on the following criteria:
  - 1) Contents of the poster (80% weightage)
    - Explanation of the viewpoint presented
    - Examples to elucidate the purport
    - References used (this is a must)
  - 2) Visual Appeal of the poster (20% weightage)
    - Systematic layout of the poster
    - Use of images and drawings
    - *Use of color is optional.*
    - *Use of slides or one complete poster size chart is optional.*

**Please note the judging criteria do not take into consideration whether the entry was submitted by individual or a group**

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## Gita Essay Competition – 2019 (Saturday, June 15, 2019)

### Rules and Instructions

**TOPIC:** Explain your understanding of the below statement and how Bhagwan substantiates it

यो मां पश्यति सर्वत्र सर्वं च मयि पश्यति ।

तस्याहं न प्रणश्यामि स च मे न प्रणश्यति ॥ 6-30॥

1. The essay competition is open to applicants who as of June 2019 are in middle school or high school.
2. Only one essay per applicant and each entry must be the work of only one applicant.
3. Essays must be submitted in English, must be no longer than 1250 words in length (excluding references/bibliography), must be double spaced and in 12-point Times New Roman font with a one-inch margin on all sides of the page.
4. Essay entries cannot already have been published.
5. While essays can carry content from published material, a bibliography must be attached with credits provided to book or website or article. An essay without bibliography and carrying published material will be automatically disqualified.
6. Your essay will be disqualified if it does not meet the requirements or is e-mailed after submission date of Saturday, June 15, 2019.
7. All essays must be emailed to the following email address: [svbfgitadayessay@gmail.com](mailto:svbfgitadayessay@gmail.com), with the name, grade (as of June 2019), and mailing address of the applicant.
8. Your essay should contain the following:
  - a. **An introduction**, which introduces the subject and contains an explanation of the topic. The objective is that you state at a high level your premise for the discussion that is going to follow.
  - b. **A body**, which develops your point of view using research and analysis. The process of analysis may include comparing and contrasting, differentiating among several ideas or events, critiquing a variety of perspectives, interpreting results, or drawing inferences. Be sure to identify the sources of your information or ideas.
  - c. **A conclusion**, which summarizes the research and analysis presented in the essay and sets forth your conclusions. Drawing on ideas already presented, you should demonstrate that your conclusions support the position you put forward in the opening paragraphs. Your aim is to convince the reader that your position is reasonable and valid.

**Please note that the judges' decision is final**

## 2019 GITA DAY FAQs

- Q.1. What events are held on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and what events are held on June 23<sup>rd</sup>?**
- a. On June 22<sup>nd</sup> we will host the elimination rounds for the Shatka and the Full Gita competitions. No other event will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - b. On June 23<sup>rd</sup> we will host all events along with the FINAL round of the Shatka and the Full Gita Competitions
- Q.2. When do the Full Gita and Shatka recitation elimination competitions on June 22<sup>nd</sup> start?**
- a. The check-in for the Full Gita competition starts at 8:30 AM. The event will start between 9:00 AM and 9:15 AM in the Shri Shri Bharati Teertha Community Center next to the SVBF Temple in Stroudsburg, PA.
  - b. The check-in for the Shatka recitation competition starts @ 12:30 PM. The event will start at 1:00 PM sharp in the Shri Shri Bharati Teertha Community Center.
- Q.3. What if I arrive late to the June 22<sup>nd</sup> event?**
- a. 5 penalty points will be applied if you arrive within the first 15 minutes and 10 penalty points will be applied if you arrive between 15 and 30 minutes late.
  - b. No participant will be able to join the competition 30 minutes after the competition start time.
- Q.4. When will I know the results of the elimination round?**
- a. We might go through multiple elimination rounds. While we cannot share an exact time, we will try to communicate eliminations as soon as the judges decide. We request all participants to be available at the community center, unless notified that you have been eliminated.
- Q.5. How long will the elimination round last?**
- a. We expect to have the Full Gita recitation competition done by 2:30 PM. However, we cannot be certain of this. Our request is for you to make yourself available for the full day.
  - b. We expect to have the Shatka recitation competition done by 4:30 PM. However, we cannot be certain of this. Our request is for you to plan to be around available until 6:00 PM.
- Q.6. Do we have accommodations available for the participants who pass the elimination round?**
- a. As we indicated in the flyer, participants who want to make accommodation arrangements for 23<sup>rd</sup> night should refer to the accommodation section of our website <http://www.svbf.org/contact> for information on hotels that offer preferred rates to SVBF devotees.
- Q.7. When do the Full Gita and Shatka recitation FINAL competitions on June 23<sup>rd</sup> event start?**
- a. The check-in for the Shatka & Full Gita competitions start at 8:30 AM. The event will start between 9:00 AM and 9:15 AM in the Shri Shri Bharati Teertha Community Center next to the SVBF Temple in Stroudsburg, PA.
  - b. The penalty points for late arrival will be as per answer to Q2.
- Q.8. Will the chanting be sequential? Will the participant be required to chant a complete chapter or complete Shatka or complete Gita?**
- a. This will be at the discretion of the judges. In the past they have used some of these following methods –
    - i. Asking an individual participant to chant slokas from a chapter after providing them with the initial verse
    - ii. Asking two participants to pair up and alternate between them one sloka at a time
    - iii. Requesting the participant to stop reciting and asking another one to pick up from where he/she left off
    - iv. Asking a participant to recite the first or last sloka of a chapter
- Q.9. Will breakfast be served? Will lunch be served? If yes, what are the timings?**
- a. Yes. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM and lunch will be served between 12:30 PM and 2:30 PM.
  - b. No eating is permitted while you are in the competition. We encourage all participants to eat before you enter the competition hall. Being in the temple grounds does not automatically count for your being present at the event; **ONLY** being in the competition hall counts.
  - c. You are encouraged to bring your own water bottle. We will also provide bottled water to every participant.
- Q.10. Can I take restroom breaks during the event?**
- a. Yes. If possible, wait for the end of a chapter to request a restroom break.
- Q.11. When will the results of the FINAL event be announced?**
- a. The finals for the Gita and Shatka recitation competitions will be held on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Winners of the Full Gita and Shatka recitation competitions will be announced during the awards distribution ceremony that will start at 4:30 PM.
- Q.12. What is the scoring criteria?**
- a. Below please find the scoring sheet for the Full Gita & Shatka competitions. The contestants with the lowest number of penalty points will be selected for the final round. It is at the discretion of the judges on how many contestants will make it to the final round.

Chanting	Penalty Points
Breaks in Chanting	-3

Hesitation / Pauses	-3
Needs Prompting	-5
Speed of chanting	-1
Mix-up of verses	-5
Memory	-5
Uniformity of chanting	-3
Attention to Meter	-1
Picks up at given verse	-3
<b>Pronunciation</b>	<b>Penalty Points</b>
General Pronunciation	-3
Hrasva / Deergha ( A , Aa etc., )	-3
Alpaprana / Mahaprana ( Ka / Kha etc., )	-3
Voiced / Unvoiced ( Ka / Ga etc., )	-3
Fricatives ( sha,Sha,sa )	-3
Nasals ( Anunasika )	-3
Jna, Ra, Avagraha	-3
Visarga – Upadhmaniya , Jihvamuliya	-3
Breaking per sandhi Rules	-5
<b>Attitude</b>	<b>Penalty Points</b>
Bhava ( Focus, Attitude, Posture, Sincerity, Confidence )	-5

- b. In the final round, beyond the scoring criteria above, the judges will have the discretion to ask additional questions and determine the final winners of the competition.

Q.13. Which book will the judges reference?

- a. JUDGES WILL STRICTLY FOLLOW THE SRIMAD BHAGAVADGITA TEXT BY GITA PRESS, GORAKHPUR. IT IS INCUMBENT ON THE PARTICIPANT TO VALIDATE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HIS/HER BOOK OF REFERENCE AND THIS TEXTBOOK. THE ONLY ALLOWED VARIATION IS CHANTING SLOKAS IN FOUR PARTS (with appropriate sandhi breaks).