



# NRNA YOUTH FORUM

## Youth's Spiritual and Cultural camp

### \$1 project

#### **Vision**

Connecting youth with Nepal and Nepali

#### **Mission**

Organize “Youth cultural and spiritual camp” globally and make the “**Copie and Kalam Project**” successful.

#### **Program objectives**

The key objective of the Camp is to provide a sustainable platform to promote and, preserve Nepali language, culture and values to second generation diaspora youth in foreign countries and also cultivate a habit of saving \$1 a month for philanthropic contribution towards “**Copie and Kalam Project**” in remote and rural schools. The spirit of the program is based on five core human values: truth, love, peace, selfless service, and non-violence.

#### **Key objectives:**

- Create awareness to preserve identity
- Provide support and resources to promote Nepali language and dialects
- Educate about Nepali culture, food and festivals
- Educate about our heritage, religions and history
- Educate eastern philosophy, the Art of life and its spiritual significance
- Create awareness about meditation, yoga, singing, dancing culture of Nepal
- Share and mentor leadership, communication and social networking skills
- Educate about the importance and impact of their \$1 saving scheme in Nepal.

#### **The concept**

- The proposed 2-3 days workshop program, “Nepali cultural and spiritual camp” globally; will consist of various elements such as show and tell experience about Nepali art, culture, heritage, values and significance of spirituality in everyday life. Participants will have the opportunity to learn and start the journey of appreciating their language, heritage, cross culture values, and compassion while learning about the art of life provide. Nepali language learning resources and guidelines (Eg course guidelines, online learning platform will be provided in association with meronepali.com Nepali language learning portal).
- During the camp, the participant will commit to save \$1 a month and start the journey of philanthropy

### Key elements of the camp

- Yoga, meditation, inspirational singing and dancing
- Power point/video presentation and interaction on Nepali culture and values
- Interactive games based on "moral stories" and its implementation
- Motivational talk, interactive games and workshops on decision making, enhancing relationships and leadership skills
- Various activities reflecting on appreciation and feeling being a proud Nepali
- Group discussions and public speaking to summarize the key messages of the camp
- Group discussion and ideas sharing about saving \$1 a month and its utilization

### Nepali language and second generation growing in foreign countries

Language plays a great role to connect with art, culture and heritage of one's country. But the reality for Nepali children growing in foreign countries is different. For example in countries like Australia, UK, USA, children grow up in English language environment by compulsion. As a result children are naturally inclined to speak foreign language and thus gets connected with the country of their domicile.

There is nothing wrong with speaking foreign language, but NOT speaking Nepali is a concern. There is nothing wrong with getting connected with the culture where they live but not knowing their own identity is a major issue.

It is said that the person who doesn't understand and appreciate own culture, would less likely to appreciate other's culture. Multicultural countries like Australia, UK, USA, and Canada have acknowledged this fact and are keen to preserve their multiculturalism. However government can only provide support indirectly and we should not expect them to take responsibility to teach our culture and heritage to our children as it is our moral responsibility..

### What are we doing?

Migration is a natural process and regardless of any reasons of migration to foreign countries, migrants can never forget the country of their origin they come from and will always endeavor to keep this connection alive not only for themselves but also for their children. Nepali communities globally are worried about the future of their kids as they are being distanced from their own language and culture and not connected to their home country for various reasons. It is a fact that when Nepalese children meet with each other in any social gatherings, they prefer to speak in English ONLY. Parents are worried that kids are not even mingling with their grandparents because they don't understand nepali or vice versa.

It is a bitter truth that our second generation Nepali will eventually get disconnected from their own language and culture if we fail to address this growing and burning issue as a priority.

All is however not gloom, the good news is that now parents are more aware of this than ever. It is becoming crystal clear that our identity is our language and culture. As a result, with the aim to give "nepali man" ra "nepali pan", the concept of Sunday school has sprung and many Nepali Pathshala (Nepali language and culture school)

have been initiated and established globally and the trend is growing. This is a great awareness campaign and exemplary work from the Nepali communities.

However, there are also challenges in running Nepali school. Majority of the schools are struggling to continue due to lack of comprehensive teaching materials specifically designed for Nepali in foreign countries. There is also a need of standard course curriculum as a general guidance globally.

## Role of NRNA ICC Youth Forum and NCC Youth Forum

### NRNA ICC Youth Forum

- Develop objectives and guidelines of the project
- Develop training and camp related materials
- Provide monitoring and supervision on youth project work at NCC level
- Develop template for project managements
- Request NRNA ICC to open the account for youth forum “Copie & Kalam” project

### NRNA NCC Youth Forum

- Develop policy and direction of ICC Youth Forum
- Work to achieve objectives of the project
- Organize at least one Camp a year.
- Collect fund for “Copie & Kalam” project from participants (youth) and deposit the fund NRN youth forum account in Nepal
- Create a database of record keeping of the fund donations and donors name list
- Encourage and manage to run Nepali paathsaala (Sunday school) in coordination with Nepalese Community.

## Conclusion

Since the inception of NRN concept with the vision of “by Nepali for Nepali”, the key objective was to unite global Nepali and connect with their motherland to participate in her betterment and prosperity. “One time Nepali, all time Nepali” is a great movement initiated by NRN leaders. This is the reality but considering Nepal’s own roller coaster political transitions and other major priorities, this appeal is still limited to discussion stage.

However not being resolved the “One time Nepali, all time Nepali” issue does not stop any of us to continue to be more proud Nepali. Getting a dual citizenship or no visa requirement for people of Nepali origin to travel Nepal can have huge sentimental values but would not solve the problem. Growing second generation will still be more disconnected with the country until projects like Sunday School which promotes “Nepali pen” and “Nepali man” are adopted and implemented globally to institutionalize NCC initiatives on a united front.

Communities like Chinese, Indian, Italian, and Greek across the globe have a long history of educating their kids about their culture and heritage. They have already established their identity in this global village. Now it is our turn to be proud Nepali.

## Highlights of Project:

1. Culture, Nationality and Language knowledge sharing is most important for youth and under 18 children who live in foreign country.
2. NRNA ICC Youth forum need to globally organize Youth knowledge sharing and spiritual camp by NRNA NCC youth forum.
3. At least need to organize one program in NCC level
4. During the program participants (youth) can contribute \$1 per person (Max they can contribute \$1 per months so \$12 a year) for “Copie & Kalam Project” working for rural area’s school in Nepal.
5. After participating in this program Youth are aware of at least basic information about Nepal and Nepali Culture.
6. Contributed money can make meaningful project in education sector
7. Youth Forum can build and own this program and it will be historical project for NRNA
8. Involve and seek Nepal Government participation on this project.
9. Language classes can make big difference to develop positive attitude for Nepal and Nepali in diaspora nepali’s youth
10. Organize one spiritual camp and run language class at NCC level .

## The example role of NRNA youth

Above mentioned concept of facilitating “cultural and spiritual camp” is being coordinated since last eight years across many cities and states of USA, UK, Australia, Thailand, Burma to name a few. So far it is coordinated by Sunday schools and community organizations. The program has been highly successful and greatly appreciated by communities. However due to lack of coordinated resources there is still a big room to make it more effective, engaging and consistent. Recently in Australia, for the third time, The Heritage Nepal in association with The Nepali Vision successfully coordinated summer camp Australia wide which was supported by NRNA ICC Youth Forum. This program was facilitated by Dr. Chintamani Yogi in association with Shanti Sewa Ashram .

*Please refer to video & photos to see program highlights and photographs in link below.*

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Photos:



















**HERITAGE NEPAL**  
PRESENTS

**Kids Summer Camp  
&  
THE ART OF LIFE**

**EXCLUSIVE MEDIA PARTNER**  
**THE NEPALI VISION**  
नेपाली विजन AUSTRALIA

**Kids Spiritual Summer Camp**

**Saturday**  
15 March 2014  
Time: 11 AM TO 5 PM

**THE ART OF LIFE**  
BY GURU DR. CHINTAMANI YOGI

**SUNDAY**  
16 MARCH 2014  
TIME: 5 PM ONWARDS

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**SUPPORTED BY NRNA ICC YOUTH TEAM**