



# 2025 Sikh Youth Symposium



*A Division of Sikh Youth Alliance of North America (SYANA)*

7419 Leaf Blade Lane, Wesley Chapel, Florida 33545, Telephone: (419) 450-0695

## 2025 SYMPOSIUM ANNOUNCEMENT

### TO ALL THE REGIONAL AND LOCAL CHAPTER CONVENERS :

The Symposia is open to the youth belonging to the following age groups, who will base their speeches on the following books:

- Group I : 06-08 yr. Saka Chamkaur by Jagdish Singh, SGPC, Amritsar (Punjabi & English)
  - Group II : 09-10 yr. Sikh Sakhis Part III, Brave Sikh Women by Dr. Gurbaksh Singh (English only)
  - Group III: 11-13 yr. Selected Episodes Part 4 by Sikh Missionary College (Punjabi & English)
  - Group IV: 14-17 yr. The Message of Gurbani – Japji Overview by Gurbakhsh Singh (English only)
  - Group V : 16-22 yr. Guru's Way as the Worldview through the lens of Asa-Ki-Vaar
- Note on overlap of ages: 16 & 17 year old youth have the freedom to participate in either group IV or V.

**EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULE:** First place winners of 2024 International Sikh Youth Symposium belonging to age groups I to IV will be promoted to participate in the next higher age group this year, whereas the first place winner of 5<sup>th</sup> group shall be our honored guest with special assignment at the 2025 International Symposia. After a gap of one year in 2024 the 5<sup>th</sup> group winner shall resume his/her participation in this group if the age requirements for the said group are satisfied.

The age of any participant will be determined as of December 31, 2024. Here are some rules:

1. **PARTICIPATION RULE:** No youth can participate from other regions. However, under special circumstance a youth may be allowed to participate from another local chapter **within the region** with the permission of the regional convener. Also, any youth may be permitted to participate in a **higher age group (and not vice versa)** at the discretion of Local Unit convener. One of the two siblings belonging to same age group may participate in the higher group from the same local unit, if they so desire.
2. **REGISTRATION:** Any one can participate in the Symposium in the age group to which they belong by filling in the Registration form and paying the **registration fees of \$25.00/participant. The Local Chapter Conveners must complete the entire registration process by January 31, 2025.**
3. **ATTENTION LOCAL CONVENERS: DISBURSE REGISTRATION FEES BY MARCH 1, 2025:** Out of the **\$25 collected from the participants**, local Conveners will keep \$5.00/participant with them, send \$5.00/participant to their Regional Conveners and **\$15.00/participant to the Sikh Youth Alliance of North America**, 7419 Leaf Blade Ln., Wesley Chapel, FL 33545 by March 1, 2025 **along with a list of youth registered for the Symposium (Do not send their registration forms). This is to cover the Symposium expenses at the local, regional and international levels.**

### **WHERE THE COMPETITION IS HELD & HOW THE PRIZES ARE AWARDED:**

- a) **LOCAL LEVEL BY APRIL 30, 2025:** All registrants including Group V will compete at the LOCAL level in the city selected by the Local Convener well before the Regional competition. The first, second and third winners from group I, II, III, IV & V will be awarded trophies.
- b) **REGIONAL LEVEL BY MAY 31, 2025:** **Following will compete at regional level:**

- i. **THE FIRST PRIZE WINNERS:** From all five age groups, who participated at local level
- ii. **SECOND PRIZE WINNERS:** **If 6 to 12 youth from Age Groups I, II, III & IV and 4 to 6 from age Group V have participated at the local level);**
- iii. **THIRD PRIZE WINNERS:** **If 13 or more youth from Age Groups I, II, III & IV and 7 or more youth from age Group V have participated at the local level.**

The first, second and third place winners from groups I, II, III, & IV and first and second winners from group V will be awarded trophies.

- c) **RESULTS OF REGIONAL WINNERS:** Results of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners of each group along with their telephone numbers and email addresses must be emailed to the National Convener at [kuldeepsingh@panth.net](mailto:kuldeepsingh@panth.net) as soon as the regionals are over but no later than June 5, 2025.

- d) **INTERNATIONAL LEVEL:** **Following will go to the International level:**
- i. **FIRST PRIZE WINNERS:** **If 1 to 8 youth from Age Groups I, II, III & IV and 1 to 3 from Age Group V have participated at the Regional level**
  - ii. **SECOND PRIZE WINNERS:** **If 9 or more youth from Age Groups I, II, III & IV and 4 or more from Age Group V have participated at the Regional level**

**2025 INTERNATIONAL SIKH YOUTH SYMPOSIUM will be held in Bakersfield, California from 31<sup>st</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2025. The exact location and other details will be sent to you in due course of time.** The first, second and third prize winners from Groups I, II, III, IV & V will be awarded Superb Personalized Plaques. All other participants will be awarded Distinguished Speaker Award Plaques A letter of achievements will also be sent to the Principals/Deans of the schools/Universities of the participant.

- e) **SPECIAL AWARDS:** The FIFTH GROUP 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize winners and the participants will also receive a cash Fellowship award of \$500, \$400, \$300 and \$200 respectively in addition to the Plaques.
- f) It is recommended to award a special prize of \$10 at LOCAL LEVEL, \$20 at REGIONAL LEVEL and \$30 at INTERNATIONAL LEVEL to all the Punjabi Speaking Participants. It is also recommended that all Kesadhaari Participants should be suitably rewarded at all three levels, where ever and whenever possible.

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL THE CONVENORS - REQUEST THE BOOKS FOR YOUR CENTER NOW:**

We will soon be receiving all the books and we shall be shipping them over to you in the month of November after receiving your request. Only the books for Group I are available in PUNJABI. Please email us at [kuldeepsingh@panth.net](mailto:kuldeepsingh@panth.net) the number of books your Region and/or Local Chapter requires by November 5, 2024. To get clarification on the rules and regulations of the Symposium or any other organizational matter, please feel free to contact me by email or at the above address and phone number. **Please make copies of this announcement letter and the enclosed material for handing over to all the volunteers, youth and judges involved in the Symposium.** Thank you.

October 15, 2024

- Kuldeep Singh

**PLEASE KEEP THIS INFORMATION ALWAYS WITH YOU AS IT CONTAINS THE UPDATED RULES, REGULATIONS AS WELL AS THE GUIDELINES THAT ARE GOING TO BE FOLLOWED THROUGHOUT THE SYMPOSIUM**