

India Herald

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Hindu Youth Award Winners 2018

By KOMAL LUTHRA

On March 3, 2018, Hindus of Greater Houston hosted the 8th annual Hindu Youth Awards. Seven outstanding young individuals received the Hindu Youth Award. The award winners were chosen based on their exceptional community service and leadership skills.



Adhi Gopal
Nominated by Meenakshi Temple

My name is Adhi Gopal, and I am happy to be a recipient of the Youth of the Year award from HGH. Since a very tender age, I have recognized Meenakshi Temple as my second home. From here, I gained not only my social skills, but also experience with volunteering, fundraising for beneficial causes, and providing aid to my community. Over the years and the hundreds of hours volunteering, I discovered the sense of pride that can be attained when you help something you love. From controlling the sound booth during cultural events, to performing a classical concert for raising disaster relief funds, Meenakshi Temple has given me a platform to do what I love for the people and community that I love. The Youth of the Year award has motivated me to continue onward with my journey and search for more ways where I can provide my services and showcase my leadership.

Ayush Sharma
Nominated by Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh

I was nominated for this award by Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS), an organization that I have been involved with for nearly 20 years. In the recent years, I have had many volun-



Neelam Bhatt
Nominated by BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir

Jai Swaminarayan! It was a great honor to have been nominated by BAPS Mandir to receive the Hindu Youth Award. Working with children as a teacher at the mandir brings me great joy and purpose. It was



teering opportunities including being co-director of activities for the annual seven-day youth retreat. Working with HSS, HGH, and other Hindu orgs around Houston has helped me grow as a person and has given me a deeper understanding of our Hindu culture. I am incredibly grateful that I was chosen to receive the Youth award, and it serves as a constant reminder to work hard for society every single day. I will continue my work with the Hindu community and look forward to the many challenges ahead.

Eesha Gulati

Nominated by Arya Samaj

Eesha has been associated with Arya Samaj for 22 years. Eesha served as a leader for



Arya Yuvak Mandal – The Youth Leadership team present at Arya Samaj. She has earned degrees in Hindi, Asian Studies and Communications from University of Texas at Austin. She prioritized her involvement with Hindu Youth through her career as Hindi 1-5 1B (beginner through college level) teacher at Bellaire High school. Eesha has influenced many students by educating them about Hinduism and instilling pride & passion among Hindu youth in Houston. In addition, she has been the Houston Ambassador for the International Vegetarian Association for several years now.

through this experience that motivated me to practice pediatric pharmacy at Texas Children's Hospital as a pharmacy resident. I am grateful to have been born into satsang- nothing can replace the values and culture I learned. Mandir shaped me to be the person I am today. Receiving this award humbly motivates me to continue doing seva and serving my Hindu community. I am proud of this award and its symbolization of servitude, respect, and character.

Akash Dhingra
Nominated by VHPA Houston

Growing up as a Hindu youth has been an amazing experience and I appreciate all this life has given me. Receiving this award inspires me to be a lovable and respectful



youth leader in the Hindu community. From my experiences at Hindu heritage youth camp I've gained vital Vedic knowledge, life lessons, and priceless friendships. Having parents that nurtured my curiosity for seeking truth was very necessary to my own natural pursuit in living and understanding Hinduism. I have become a certified yoga teacher and have started teaching regularly at my company Cardtronics. The journey of life I have been on has been a great reward for me, and I appreciate this award for reminding me to continue to grow and evolve myself to better serve society.



Arun Dev Kumar
Nominated by Sewa USA

I am from Kerala, India and was born to parents both who have served in the Indian Armed Forces. I have been educated in over 8 states in Bharat and volunteered with Indian Army initiatives for community building - mobile library, weekly shramdan and coordinating vocational events for Veer Parivaars (Families of Martyred soldiers). I have been involved with Sewa for 2.5 years and have coordinated and participated in various "Serve Houston" projects which in-

cludes Houston Food Bank, Medical Bridges, Galveston Shramdan activities. In addition, I played a key role in mentoring "Get Inspired Houston" interns a result of which established the first Sewa chapter in University of Houston along with former interns. I was involved in coordinating and providing relief for over 200 students stranded as a result of Hurricane Harvey and aided communities in Rosharon and Katy for rebuilding and logistics purposes.



Jiger Patel
Nominated by ISKCON Houston

Jiger Patel is currently studying supply chain management and working as a procurement specialist. He has been involved with ISKCON all his life. He has worked to bring Hindu dharma to mainstream and mentor youth. He has taken the vows to follow and propagate Hindu dharma and is very involved in daily temple activities. He believes that this award will allow him to serve as a mentor for youth and open up other opportunities to serve as an ambassador for Hindu dharma.

Photos Bijay Dixit
(Unique Photo Images)