



# Sri Venkateswara Swami (Balaji) Temple

Aurora, IL Tel (630) 844-2252 Fax (630) 844-2254

## Second Annual Essay Competition for Young Devotees Chandramana Ugadi New Year Celebrations Saturday, March 20, 2010

**Due Date for Submissions: March 7, 2010**

As a part of the Ugadi celebrations on March 20, the Balaji Temple will hold an essay competition for young devotees. Suggested essay topics for different ages are:

Ages 7 to 10, 1 - 2 pages, submitted in the student's own handwriting.

**Describe your favorite deity, and why this deity is your favorite?**

Ages 11 to 14; essay will be limited to two pages (single spaced, typed).

**What is the most memorable experience you have had visiting a temple in India or at the Balaji Temple?**

Ages 15 and above; 3 pages (single spaced typed).

**What aspect of the Hindu religion do you like the most and is there anything about Hinduism that you feel should be changed?**

An alternative question for all ages:

**How has the religion class at Balaji temple influenced your life?**

The essays should be submitted as a Word email attachment to: (svsyouth@gmail.com). If this is not possible or if the essay is in the student's own handwriting, the submission may be turned in to the Temple Office or sent to the Temple fax (630 844-2254). All essays must be received at the temple office by March 7th, or be date stamped as March 7th if submitted by email. Each essay **must** have the essay competition form attached to it (found on the back of this flier). **Name should not appear on any other page[s]**. Essays submitted without contestant information cannot be accepted or judged.

In order to ensure a fair and impartial review, the judges will not know the names of the contestants until the results have been finalized. The essays will be graded on content, style and language, clarity of thought, adhering to the length, originality, and sources. In order to ensure a fair competition, the essay must be the participant's original work, written without any help. The prizes will include gift checks for the winners in each age group, and the "Sahitya Manjari Award." The winners will be announced and prizes awarded during the Kavita Goshthi at 3:30 pm on March 20, 2010. For more information, send email to: (svsyouth@gmail.com) or call Jayashree Sarathy at (630) 898-4002; Sowjanya Dharmasankar at (630) 820-8862.

**Sri Venkateswara Swami (Balaji) Temple**  
**Second Annual Essay Competition for Young Devotees**  
**Contestant Information**

**Name** : \_\_\_\_\_

**Age** : \_\_\_\_\_

**School** : \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade** : \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Name** : \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Address** : \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** : \_\_\_\_\_

**Youth Committee use only**

**Date Received** : \_\_\_\_\_

**Serial No** : \_\_\_\_\_

**Group (Circle one)**

**Elementary/Middle/High school**