



# *BAPS*

# *National*

# *Convention*

# *2004*

July 1 – 12, 2004 ♦ Orlando, Florida



*Inspired by His Divine Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj*

## **Introduction to BAPS**

BAPS, a worldwide organization in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, is dedicated to community service, peace and harmony. BAPS strives to provide cultural and social care for society and is renowned for its dedicated youth volunteer force of 55,000 around the world. BAPS conducts humanitarian and social activities through a worldwide network of more than 8,100 centers, including 4,070 youth centers. BAPS' efforts include youth leadership conventions, natural disaster relief, recycling drives, water conservation, educational, and parenting programs. Recently, BAPS helped the victims of the deadly California fires by providing shelter and counseling services. In addition, BAPS helped firefighters and victims of the 9/11 tragedy. BAPS was also instrumental in the recovery, relief and rehabilitation efforts in Western India after the devastating earthquake in January 2001.



Swamishri blesses an audience of young children



Swamishri mingles with the youth – Anand, India



Swamishri narrates a story to young children – Perry, GA



Midwest Regional young ladies convention, Chicago, IL - 12/2003



Vocational Guidance Seminar



Group discussions held among aspiring students

## ***National Convention 2004***

BAPS believes in serving the community by focusing the creative energies of the younger generation. Weekly meetings and annual conventions help garner basic values of family harmony and selflessness. This helps to instill ethics in individuals that are beneficial to the community at large. Annual conventions instill a sense of responsibility and teamwork in the younger generation making them better citizens of tomorrow. Specially designed multimedia presentations, question and answer sessions with experts from a variety of fields, debates and discussions on the dangers of drugs, alcohol and crime, fill their hearts with a strong desire to perform positively for themselves and the communities which they are a part of.

## ***Selfless Journey***

The BAPS National Convention 2004 will be a unique event to instill the ideas of character-centered living, selflessness, and volunteerism in the youths from varied backgrounds. The epitome of these ideas has been captured in the theme of the convention – Vicharan. Vicharan is an ancient Sanskrit word which literally translates as traveling. However it has deeper connotations and may better be described as a journey. Vicharan exemplifies a selfless journey for the benefit of others. It involves moving from place to place with the idea that the whole world is one family and we must all live together in mutual harmony. Vicharan is the concept of living a principle-centered life, thus creating a better tomorrow.

## ***BAPS National Convention 2004 - Participants***

- *800 Young Professionals*
- *1900 College and High School Students*
- *2000 Elementary and Middle School Students*

## ***Tailored Convention***

In order to reach out to different age groups, there will be three distinct conventions under the umbrella of National Convention 2004.

- ◆ The first convention will be geared towards young professionals and will illustrate the concept of Vicharan as a form of ethics for everyday living, teaching principle-centered living to children, and altruism in the business world.



- ◆ The second convention will express similar ideas to college and high school students. It will also provide a forum for participants to voice their concerns. Issues relating to this dynamic age group will be tied to the concept of Vicharan.
- ◆ Our final and largest convention will focus solely on elementary and middle school children. Our goal here is to condense the principles of character-centered living encompassed in Vicharan to this inquisitive group in a manner in which they can comprehend.

### ***Location***

The National Convention 2004 will take place from July 1 to July 12 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel and Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. Nearly 800 young professionals, 1900 college and high school aged youths, and 2000 elementary and middle school aged children are scheduled to attend the convention. These delegates will represent nearly every state in the union, as well as other countries including Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. All the planning and execution of this group of conventions will be done by volunteers from across the nation. Nearly 300 people have already volunteered to cater this event, living the concept of Vicharan that this convention strives to exemplify.

### ***Proven Success***

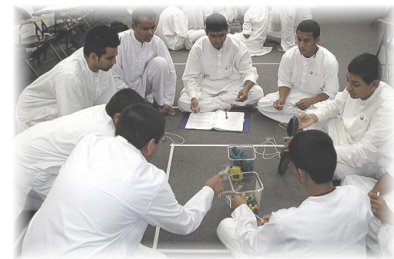
BAPS has conducted similar conventions worldwide with remarkable results. In 2000, a convention for college, high school and middle school students was held in Perry, GA. Out of 2000+ participants, approximately 15 percent began weekly volunteer activities for their local communities, while more than half of all participants initiated some type of humanitarian or volunteer work on a monthly basis. In April of 2001, a convention held in London included nearly 650 elementary school aged children. This convention focused on creating noble family values by establishing and sustaining the bond between children and parents. The convention resulted in approximately 60 percent of the participants spending more time with their family through discussions, interactions and family dining.

### ***How you can help***

In order to encourage a high level of participation in such highly effective, family and community enriching conventions, BAPS provides subsidized food and lodging for all participants. BAPS volunteers holding the convention are responsible for their own transportation costs to and from convention sites. Other costs are fully paid for by BAPS, such as convention facility rental and operating expenditures including production of teaching material and event keepsakes. These costs are offset, in part, by corporate sponsorship opportunities that support this valuable community enhancement endeavor.



Young participants learn while playing during BAPS summer camp



Team building activities strengthen the bond between participants



Receiving from the learned



Group discussion encourages exchange and learning



Icebreaker activities help participants get to know one another



College and Career Fair,  
Edison, NJ - 11/2003



Bal Summer Training Camp,  
Edison, NJ - 06/2003



Brainstorming sessions yield  
productive solutions

Sponsored messages may be promoted in announcements, press releases, banner displays and on even keepsakes.

### ***Benefits***

As Shree Pramukh Swami Maharaj always says,

*“If an individual improves, the home will improve;  
If a home improves, the community will improve;  
If a community improves, the nation will improve;  
If a nation improves, the whole world will improve;  
... Peace in the home results in peace in the world.”*

National Convention 2004 is a sincere effort to promote individual improvement. A more responsible and socially conscious youth of today will make a better citizen of tomorrow. BAPS firmly believes that moral, ethical, community and family-centered coaching results in sincere, dependable and hardworking individuals – the greatest assets for any community.

By supporting this philanthropic cause, you will provide invaluable support, and in return earn community goodwill through association with our family centric conventions.

For more information and available sponsorship opportunities, please contact Shailendra Adroja at 732.744.1744 or via e-mail at [sadroja@bapscore.org](mailto:sadroja@bapscore.org).



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