

## **CMDFW Gītā Chanting Competition General Guidelines & Judging Criteria**

1. Participants must plan to arrive at [Chinmaya Saaket](#) 30 minutes prior to the start of the competition to allow time for check-in, name-tags, participation order, etc.
2. REMINDERS to parents:
  - 🎵 Cell phones, pagers etc. must be turned OFF
  - 🎵 NO photography during chanting
  - 🎵 Unobtrusive videotaping is fine (respect privacy of participants)
  - 🎵 NO entry/exit while any participant is chanting
  - 🎵 NO prompting by anyone other than judges, lest automatic disqualification of the participant
3. Panel leader will call the names of the participants in the order determined by lottery. The order will not be determined by alphabetical order of last name.
4. Participants may elect to sit or stand during their presentation, no penalty for either choice.
5. It is expected that participants begin and end their chanting with the appropriate *slokas*; it is an integral part of their presentation. For example:
  - 🎵 Beginning *sloka*: *Om shrī gurubhyo namah, Harih Om... Om Shrī Krishna parabrahmane namah ...Atha .....*
  - 🎵 Ending *sloka*: *Harih Om...Om shrī gurubhyo namah...Harih Om... Om shantih, shantih, shantih.*
6. Each participant is expected to correctly chant the selected *slokas* from the selected chapter of the Bhagavad Gītā, for which he/she may earn a maximum total of 100 points based on the criteria described below:
  - 🎵 Memory: fluency, number of times prompting required
  - 🎵 Pronunciation: clarity and correctness of the syllables; pausing at the right place (appropriate *sandhi-viccheda*)
  - 🎵 Presentation: posture, attitude, mannerism, confidence, clarity, pace, etc.
7. Tune: Many participants will probably chant in the tune of Swami Brahmanandaji's audiotape/CD, but anyone chanting in a different tune will not be penalized, as long as their tune is consistent throughout their chanting.
8. **The decision of the judges is final.**