

PHONE YOUR FRIEND (PYF) PROGRAMME



With the grace and blessings of our beloved Sathya Sai Baba, it gives the SSIO immense pleasure in launching the above programme in association with Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini (SSSVV).

WHAT IS THE PHONE YOUR FRIEND PROGRAMME?

Phone Your Friend (PYF) programme is a volunteer driven component of the Mission English programme, administered by the Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini (SSSVV), with the objective of improving proficiency in English among all the participating teachers, as English is both the link language and is also used in all the deliverables of the SSSVV courses.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The PYF initiative functions by PYF international volunteers contacting teachers over the phone (three to five weekdays depending on each one's availability) and engaging in a 15 minutes conversation in English.

Guidebooks containing lesson plans will be provided as part of a three-level course series. The course is sequential and will cover all four skills – Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Any two skills can be practised in each call. All calls will be scheduled beforehand and is meant to be meaningful and goal oriented to ensure optimal use of time.

Volunteers desirous of enrolling for the programme can register by accessing the link which can be found on www.sathyasai.org/phoneyourfriend

WHY ENGLISH?

The English Language plays an important role in our life. It is understood by many people around the world, since it is the most spoken language. As such, all the SSSVV deliverables are in English. It is beneficial to the teachers to have a sound understanding of the language.

Kindly note, the teachers will be matched with volunteers who speak their language, to allow for second channel of communication, if needed.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

The teachers benefit from the gradual improvement in their ability to communicate in English based on sustained conversation sessions with PYF volunteers and will gain more confidence in teaching students. Virtual training provides relative anonymity emboldening teachers to speak without any hesitation.

Volunteers are empowering teachers by helping them learn English, thereby serving the society and in essence also pleasing the Lord. Therefore, the entire society (class, school, and neighbourhood) benefits from this initiative and is a self-rewarding programme for the volunteers.

HOW WILL THE SSSVV MONITOR THE PROGRAMME?

Members of the SSIO are requested to complete the online application form on our website: www.sathyasai.org/phoneyourfriend

Following approval from the Zone Chair, the names will be passed onto the SSSVV team and they will match SSIO volunteers with teachers.

- Cultural sensitivities will be strictly followed. Male volunteers with male teachers and female volunteers with female teachers will be paired
- The SSSVV team will follow up on the status of calls, monitor progress, receive feedback, take corrective action wherever/whenever required, informing school management

VOLUNTEER ENROLMENT REQUIREMENTS

- English language proficiency
- Proficiency in an Indian language - Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, Malayalam, Gujarati, Marathi, Punjabi, Bangla or Assamese.
- Passion to serve
- Commitment to the programme
- Time commitment of 15 minutes a day (3 to 5 times a week)
- Smartphone with access to WhatsApp and Wi-Fi connection

DO'S AND DON'TS

- Always adhere to the goal of teaching the English language
- Keep it professional with a clear structure
- Limit calls to maximum of 20 minutes per session
- Timely communication regarding schedule conflicts and/or changes

For any further queries or clarifications, please visit www.sathyasai.org/phoneyourfriend or email YAdputy@sathyasai.org