

Taste of India – Youth Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Youth – Pickleball Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **TBD**

Venue: **Tidewater Tennis Center, Norfolk**

- **There will be a registration fee \$10 per team**
- Both Contestants in a team have to register as a team and fee has to be paid at the time of registration
- Youth: **12 yrs – 17 yrs**
- Players will play in doubles
- *register both players while signing up.*
- It will be a round robin (number of matches might vary based on the registrations)
- Top 4 will play playoff and so on.
- The referee's decision will be final.
- Bring your own paddles.
- You will be briefed on match specifications, guidelines and etiquette by the moderator before the game begins.
- Committee and Judges reserve the right to cancel the contest or to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.
- Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction – including website, Souvenir and media releases.
- Waiver Form Needs to be Signed

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

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Youth – Art Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **Sunday, March 29th 2026**

Venue: **Hindu Temple of Hampton Roads**

- **Mandatory \$5 registration fee per contestant.**
- **Walkins NOT allowed on the day of contest.**
- Number of spots for each category are based on current grade
 - (a) grades K-2
 - (b) grades 3-5
 - (c) grades 6-8
 - (d) grades 9-12
- The topic details will be given by email after registrations close.
- Artwork must be done on provided multimedia art paper size 9×11.
- Contestants will have 30 minutes to work on their art.
- Participants CANNOT bring their own pages.
- Only ONE page per child will be provided.
- You can bring your own scratch paper for ideas.
- Artwork will be judged by independent judges. The Judge's decision is final.
- All participants are required to bring their own supplies.
- **Committee and Judges reserve the right to cancel the contest or to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.**
- **Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction – including website, Souvenir and media releases.**

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

Rina Patel Rinapatel0325@gmail.com	Kajal Patel Patelkajal022@gmail.com
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Youth – Chess Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **Saturday, March 28th 2026**

Venue: **Hindu Temple of Hampton Roads**

- **Mandatory \$5 registration fee per contestant.**
- Step 1 - Pay on TOI website
- Step 2 - Register and for details visit <https://www. kingregistration.com/event/toi25>
- Committee and Judges reserve the right to cancel the contest or to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.
- Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction – including website, Souvenir and media releases.
- Waiver Form Needs to be Signed

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

Tina Schweiss cschweiss2@hrchessclub.org	Jawahhar Jayaraman(JJ) jawahhar@gmail.com
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Youth – Essay Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **Sunday, March 29th 2026**

Venue: **Hindu Temple Of Hampton Roads**

- **Mandatory \$5 registration fee per contestant.**
- **Walkins NOT allowed on the day of contest.**
- Grade-level categories are
 - (a) grades 3 – 5
 - (b) grades 6 – 8
 - (c) grades 9 – 12
- The Topic details will be given by email after registrations are closed.
- Contestants will be given 30 minutes for writing the essay.
- If participants arrive late, they will get the remainder of the allocated 30 minutes left to write their composition.
- Entries will be judged on the depth of their content, and the skill which they have written.
- Participants should demonstrate a sound knowledge of the subject matter and support their assertions.
- Pen and Paper will be provided by TOI.
- **Committee and Judges reserve the right to cancel the contest or to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.**
- **Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction – including website, Souvenir and media releases.**

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

Ruma Sanjay Patel rumaptl@yahoo.com	Mali Patel mali4839@gmail.com
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Youth – TOI Science Fair

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **Sunday, March 29th 2026**

Venue: **Hindu Temple of Hampton Roads**

- **Mandatory \$5 registration fee per participant.**
- **Walkins NOT allowed on the day of contest.**

Purpose:

- Develop curiosity and creativity
- Learn basic scientific thinking and problem-solving
- Explore science through observation, experimentation, and presentation
- Build confidence in explaining ideas

Eligibility:

- Students in Grades 1-8 can participate as per the following categories:
 - A: grades 1, 2
 - B: grades 3, 4, 5
 - C: grades 6, 7, 8

General Rules:

- Each student may enter one project
- Projects should be student led; limited adult guidance is allowed but work must be done by the student
- Dangerous materials are prohibited
- Plagiarism of any kind is prohibited
- Follow moral and ethical guidelines
- Projects may be disqualified for breaking any of the above rules

Format:

- Projects should be presented on a trifold display
- Projects should, on the trifold, contain the following information clearly labeled:
 - Guiding question(s), purpose, and background
 - Hypothesis
 - Materials
 - Procedure
 - Data
 - Data analysis
 - Conclusion
 - Acknowledgments and citations (if applicable)
- Projects should be appropriate for the student's grade level and/or age
- Committee and Judges reserve the right to cancel the contest or to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.

- Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction - including website, Souvenir and media releases.

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

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Rohan Sagar

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Youth – General Knowledge Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **Saturday, March 29th 2026**

Venue: Hindu Temple of Hampton Roads

- **Mandatory \$5 registration fee per contestant.**
- **Walkins NOT allowed on the day of contest.**
- This would be written contest
- There are 3 levels of competition in General Knowledge:
 - Level 1: Grades 1 and 2
 - Level 2: Grades 3, 4 and 5
 - Level 3: Grades 6, 7 and 8

Format:

- Round 1
 - Multiple Choice
 - Thirty Minutes
- Round 2: only the top 5 winners from Round 1
 - Oral
- Awards will be given to the top three participants
- Questions will be according to the category

- Committee and Judges reserve the right to cancel the contest or to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.
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Sanjeev Sagar Sanjeevsagarm@yahoo.com	Rohan Sagar rohansagarm@gmail.com
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Youth – Karaoke Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **Sunday, March 29th 2026**

Venue: **Hindu Temple Of Hampton Roads**

- **Mandatory \$5 registration fee per contestant.**
- **Walkins NOT allowed on the day of contest.**
- Grade-level categories
 - grades K – 2
 - grades 3 – 5
 - grades 6 – 8
 - grades 9 – 12
- The performance will be limited to 3 minutes.
- The selected piece must not have any profanity or abusive language in its lyrics.
- The contestant must introduce himself/herself and the piece they will be performing.
- The timing for the performance begins after the set-up and introduction is complete.
- The performance must be SOLO.
- The piece must be memorized. The contestants are NOT allowed to bring their lyrics or notes to read during the performance.
- The contestant is responsible for being present at the allotted time.
- The contestants will be scored on the following criteria:
 - Quality of Tone
 - Technique
 - Diction/Communication
 - Musicianship
- Committee and Judges reserve the right to cancel the contest or to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.
- Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction – including website, Souvenir and media releases.

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

NagaSri Yapala

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Aarti Sanghavi

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Youth – Math Bee Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **Sunday, March 29th 2026**

Venue: **Hindu Temple of Hampton Roads**

- **Mandatory \$5 registration fee per participant.**
- **Walkins NOT allowed on the day of contest.**
- This would be written contest
- There are 3 levels of competition in Math Bee
 - Math Bee Level 1: Grades 1 and 2
 - Math Bee Level 2: Grades 3, 4 and 5
 - Math Bee Level 3: Grades 6, 7 and 8
- All exam papers must be returned before leaving the room
- Use of any electronic device is NOT permitted (No calculators and no cell phones)
- Please bring pencil(s)
- Scratch paper will be provided for rough calculations
- Committee and Judges reserve the right to cancel the contest or to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.
- Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction - including website, Souvenir and media releases.

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Daniel Viar math.club.va@gmail.com	Bhranti Patel bhrantirph@gmail.com
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Youth – TOI Shark Tank

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **Sunday, March 29th 2026**

Venue: Hindu Temple of Hampton Roads

- **Mandatory \$5 registration fee per participant.**
- **Walkins NOT allowed on the day of contest.**
- Eligibility Participants
 - Middle School (grades 6-8)
 - High School (grades 9-12)

Objective

The TOI Shark Tank Contest aims to encourage **entrepreneurial thinking** and **innovative problem-solving** by giving participants the opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a panel of judges ("Sharks").

Team Composition

- Each team may consist of **1–4 members**.
- Teams must register before the deadline specified by the organizers.

Idea Submission

- Each team must submit a **brief business proposal** or **executive summary** outlining:
 - Problem statement
 - Proposed solution or product
 - Target market
 - Business model or revenue plan
 - Estimated budget and funding needs
- Submissions must be **original** and free from plagiarism.

Presentation Guidelines

- Teams will have **3–5 minutes** to present their pitch, followed by a **Q&A session** with the Sharks.
- Visual aids such as **posters, prototypes, or demos** are permitted.
- All team members should participate in the presentation.

Evaluation Criteria

Judges will evaluate teams based on:

- **Innovation and Creativity** – Uniqueness of the idea
- **Feasibility and Practicality** – Real-world potential and implementation
- **Market Understanding** – Target audience and scalability
- **Financial Planning** – Budget clarity and revenue model
- **Presentation Skills** – Communication, confidence, and persuasiveness

Rules and Restrictions

- The idea must be **original** (not previously submitted or publicly launched).
- No use of **offensive, illegal, or controversial content**.
- Teams must adhere strictly to **time limits**.

Funding Simulation

- The judges ("Sharks") may offer **hypothetical investments** based on the business potential.
- These investments are **symbolic** and do not represent real financial transactions.

Awards and Recognition

- Prizes or recognition may be given for:
 - **Best Business Idea**
 - **Most Innovative Pitch**
 - **Best Presentation**
 - **Audience Choice Award** (if applicable)

Conduct and Fair Play

- Participants must maintain **professional behavior** throughout the event.
- **Disrespectful conduct**, use of foul language, or disruption of other teams' presentations will lead to disqualification.

Final Decision

- The judges' decision will be **final and binding**.
- Organizer reserves the right to modify rules or timelines if necessary.

Committee and Judges reserve the right to cancel the contest or to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.

- Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction – including website, Souvenir and media releases.
- Waiver Form Needs to be Signed.

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

Urjita Dani Urjita@gmail.com	Deepika Dudi deepikadesh@gmail.com
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Youth – Photography Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **Sunday, March 29th 2026**

Venue: **Hindu Temple of Hampton Roads**

- **Mandatory \$5 registration fee per contestant.**
- **Walkins NOT allowed on the day of contest.**
- Number of spots for each Grade-Level category
 - (a) grades K-2 : 10 entries
 - (b) grades 3-5: 10 entries
 - (c) grades 6-8: 10 entries
- Contestants will have 20 minutes to click a picture ON SITE at the temple.
- The Photograph for the contest MUST be taken by the contestant WITHOUT any help or guidance from others including parents/guardians.
- The Photograph should depict the grade category theme (Topic/Theme will be provided after registering)
- Contestants must bring their own hand-held device. No Cameras. Data enabled device to share picture to judge includes phone or tablet
- Photographs will then be transferred to a laptop to be judged.
- All the photographs should be given a TITLE.
- Only ONE photograph should be submitted as your FINAL submission.
- Photography contests WILL NOT judge techniques.
- Photography contest Judging criteria includes:
 - Adherence/Appropriateness to Theme
 - Uniqueness of Concept
 - Originality
 - Clarity of Expression
 - Humor
 - Creativity
 - Innovative Means of Delivering Message
 - Entertainment Quality
- Photographs will be judged by independent judges. The Judge's decision IS final.
- **Committee and Judges reserve the right to cancel the contest or to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.**
- **Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction – including website, Souvenir and media releases.**

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

Bhranti Patel bhrantirph@gmail.com	
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Youth – Poetry Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **Sunday, March 29th 2026**

Venue: **Hindu Temple of Hampton Roads**

- **Mandatory \$5 registration fee per contestant.**
- **Walkins NOT allowed on the day of contest.**
- Grade-level categories are
 - Grades K – 1
 - Grades 2 – 4
 - Grades 5 – 7
 - Grades 8 – 10
- Contestants will be given 20 minutes for writing a poem.
- The Topic details will be given by email after registrations are closed.
- If participants arrive late, they will get the remainder of the allocated 20 minutes left to write their Poem.
- Pen and Paper will be provided by TOI.
- Entries will be judged on the depth of their content, and the skill which they have written.
- Judging Criteria: A panel of judges will review the entries by grade-level category, based on the following criteria:
 - Use of theme (will be provided after registrations are closed)
 - Concise and accurate use of language
 - Work that engages and lifts the heart of readers
- **Committee and Judges reserve the right to cancel the contest or to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.**
- **Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction - including website, Souvenir and media releases.**

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

Jolly Patel JollyPatel_128@yahoo.com	Urvashi Patel uruhitu@gmail.com
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Youth – Public Speaking Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **Sunday, March 29th 2026**

Venue: **Hindu Temple of Hampton Roads**

- **Mandatory \$5 registration fee per contestant.**
- **Walkins NOT allowed on the day of contest.**
- No. of spots for each grade-level category
 - Grades 1-3 – 10 entries
 - Grades 4-6 – 10 entries
 - Grades 7-10 – 10 entries
- Grades-level 1-3 can work on their prepared speech at home on the topic given in advance. They cannot read out their speech.
- Grades-level group 4-6 and 7-10 – **EXACT TOPIC** will be given the day of the contest.
- Contestants will be given 30 minutes to work on their speech.
- Contestants get a maximum of 3 minutes for their speech.
- Notepaper and pencil will be provided to contestants to create their speech.
- No media is allowed, if used – contestants will be DISQUALIFIED.
- Contestants are not allowed to share their thoughts or discuss with one another.
- Warning bell will be sounded in 2 minutes.
- Final bell will be sounded at the end of the 3rd minute.
- All speeches will be judged by independent judges. The Judge's decision is final.
- **Committee and Judges reserve the right to cancel the contest or to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.**
- **Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction – including website, Souvenir and media releases.**

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

Madhu Komira pramak9@gmail.com	
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Youth – Table Tennis Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **Saturday, March 28th 2026**

Venue: **Hindu Temple of Hampton Roads**

- **Mandatory \$5 registration fee per participant.**
- No. of spots for each age category
 - 7 - 9 years: 8 entries
 - 10 - 12 years: 8 entries
 - 13 - 17 years: 8 entries

(NOTE: Any age category not meeting 8 contestants will be cancelled)**

- All games in Table tennis are singles.
- All players are to bring their own rackets, balls will be provided.
- The coin toss winner will decide the order of serving, receiving and the ends.
- All matches in Round 1 are knockout rounds. The first player to score 21 points wins. If it is a tie at 20, the player gaining the lead of 2 points wins.
- Round 2 will be played in the best of 3 matches format. Each match will be a 11 point game.
- Finals will be played in a best of 5 matches format. Each match will be a 11 point game.
- The first player to score 21 or 11 points wins. If it is a tie at 20 or 10, the player gaining the lead of 2 points wins.
- Each player will serve for 5 points in a row, and then the serve is switched to the other player. If a game is at a score of 20-20/10-10, each player only serves 1 point at a time.
- Games will be judged by independent referees. The referee's decision IS final.
- **Committee and Judges reserve the right to cancel the contest or to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.**
- **Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction – including website, Souvenir and media releases.**
- Waiver Form Needs to be Signed

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

Umang Aggarwal	
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Youth – Tennis Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **Starting from February 22nd 2026 onwards**

Venue: **Details will be provided**

- **Please contact Veeram Shetty Guttula (757) 753-7615 for questions.**
- **Mandatory \$10 registration fee per participant.**
- Both Contestants in a Doubles team have to register as a team and fee has to be paid at the time of registration
- Age categories
 - Kids Doubles (Ages 10 yrs and below)
 - Singles (Ages 11 - 17 yrs)
- Committee and Judges reserve the right to cancel the contest or to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.
- Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction – including website, Souvenir and media releases.
- Waiver Form Needs to be Signed

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Veeram Shetty Guttula vshettyg@hotmail.com	Satish Chekuri chekurisr@gmail.com
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Youth – Bottle Bash Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **Sunday, March 29th 2026**

Venue: **Hindu Temple of Hampton Roads**

- **Mandatory \$5 registration fee per contestant.**
- **Walkins NOT allowed on the day of contest.**

Objective

- Score points by knocking the opponent's bottle off the pole or hitting the pole with the disc.

Gameplay

- Teams alternate throwing the Frisbee toward the opponent's pole.
- The throwing team tries to knock the bottle off or hit the pole.
- The defending team tries to:
 - Catch the Frisbee before it hits the ground, or
 - Catch the bottle before it hits the ground.

Scoring

- Points are awarded only if the defense fails to make a catch.
 - point: Disc hits the pole and defense does not catch the disc.
 - points: Bottle is knocked off and defense does not catch the bottle.
 - points: Disc hits the pole and knocks the bottle off, and neither is caught.
- If the defense catches the disc or bottle before it hits the ground, no points are scored.

Serving Rules

- Teams alternate throws.
- Both teammates must throw before the other team throws again.
- A foot fault (stepping past the pole while throwing) cancels the throw.
Games are usually played to 11 points.
- You must win by 2 points.
- If both teams go over 11 in the same round, play continues.
- Common House Rules (Optional)
- **Committee and Judges reserve the right to cancel the contest or to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.**
- **Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction – including website, Souvenir and media releases.**
- **Waiver Form Needs to be Signed**

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

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Youth – 8-Ball Pool Contest

Taste of India – Contest Mania 2026 Guidelines

Contest Date – **TBD**

Venue: Q-Master Billiards, Virginia Beach

Youth: 13 yrs – 17 yrs

- **Mandatory \$20 registration fee per participant.**
- **Games will be overseen by independent referees. The referee's decision is final.**
- **OBJECT OF THE GAME:**
 - Pool will be a mixed game for both Youth and Adults and they will play against each other like every year.
 - 8-Ball is a call shot game played with a cue ball and fifteen object balls, numbered 1 through 15.
 - One player must pocket balls of the group numbered 1 through 7 (solid colors), while the other player has 9 thru 15 (stripes).
 - The player pocketing his group first and then legally pocketing the 8-ball wins the game.
 - Organizers will have detailed 8-Ball game rules that will be followed.
 - Games will be overseen by independent referees. The referee's decision is final.
- Committee and Judges reserve the right to cancel the contest or to present no awards or to reduce the number of awards if an insufficient number of deserving entries are received.
- Taste of India & Contest Mania reserves the right to utilize and publicize the contestant names, competition entries, photos and videos without any restriction – including website, Souvenir and media releases.

ONCE REGISTERED, FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL.

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