

Indonesia

Sathya Sai Young Adults

Russia

SATHYA SAI YOUNG ADULTS

Sathya Sai Baba's love has drawn Young Adults (YAs) from across the globe to participate in His divine mission, by learning and practising human values and serving the needy. The YAs have enthusiastically shared their skills and creativity, working closely with senior SSIO members on various programmes. Major initiatives led by the YAs are outlined below, followed by specific programmes around the globe.

Serve the Planet (STP)

The STP initiative was developed to honour Avatar Declaration Day, 20th October, when Baba declared His divine mission. It helps YAs gain a deeper understanding of Sathya Sai Baba's message on the environment and practise it in their local communities. Consistent with this year's theme, Protect the Planet, the YAs conducted study circles in Sathya Sai Centres and Groups, and implemented projects to reduce the usage of plastic, conserve water, and advocate the consumption of nourishing and wholesome food for healthy living and spiritual growth.

Love All Serve All (LASA)

LASA aims to promote unity in diversity through music based on Sathya Sai's teachings on the five human values. YAs have composed and rendered songs in different languages and tunes and have actively engaged in community projects.

Young Adults Talent Development (YATD)

Subject matter experts conduct webinars monthly on time management, leading a balanced life, and managing projects, to equip young adults with practical skills that can be applied to their personal and professional lives.

Sadhana of Love (SOL)

The SOL programme has been developed for all members of the SSIO to facilitate the realisation of our inherent divinity. Regular online workshops are conducted to give YAs practical guidance on their spiritual journey, based on Sathya Sai Baba's teachings, with an emphasis to develop Self-confidence, Self-satisfaction, and self-sacrifice, leading to Self-realisation.

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Global Content Repository (GCR)

The GCR is an initiative to collect and share YA programmes, including study circle material, dramas, and musical performances, as resources for the use of Sathya Sai Centres and Groups.

Sathya Sai International Youth Leadership Programme (SSIYLP)

The SSIYLP, initiated in 2015, provides standardised leadership training to YAs based on Sathya Sai Baba's teachings, and covers both foundational knowledge and practical applications in society. The goal of the SSIYLP is to develop future leaders who will disseminate Sathya Sai Baba's message, render service to society, and lead lives based on human values.

In addition to actively participating in SSIO programmes and initiatives, the YAs work closely with local Sathya Sai Centres and Groups and local communities around the globe.



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01

ZONE 1

YAs of Zone 1 rendered various services at orphanages, nursing homes, and shelters. They distributed food to the homeless as well as winter care packages, and organised events for children with physical challenges. In addition, they engaged in home building, textbook drives, blood donations, and tree planting, to name a few projects.

Throughout the year, YA volunteers participated in Walk for Values events at multiple locations. They also organised Sports Days in keeping with Sathya Sai Baba's message of healthy living.

From Zone 1, 109 YAs participated in the Sathya Sai World Youth Festival (SSWYF) in Prasanthi Nilayam, July 2016, where some of them held leadership roles.



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2A

ZONE 2A

Approximately 20 YAs from Zone 2A participated in the SSWYF. Seven YAs graduated from the SSIYLP in November 2016 and subsequently served in leadership positions in the SSIO. In addition, YA volunteers organised Walks for Values on five occasions.

In Guatemala, YAs coordinated the country's first Sathya Sai Women's Retreat, where 47 women, including YAs, attended.

Sathya Sai YAs of Latin America participated in the LASA musical programme and the STP project.



Mexico

2B

ZONE 2B

In South American countries, YAs served food regularly to the needy. They participated in the global STP initiative in 2016, “Love for Animals,” by operating animal shelters and feeding abandoned animals. In various cities, YA volunteers taught weekly Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) lessons, encouraging children to nurture and practise noble habits and ideals.

In El Recuerdo, an impoverished community in Bogotá, Colombia, YAs organised a beautiful service programme in April 2017 for 30 children and 20 adults, which included silent sitting, a skit on gratitude, and crafting of bracelets.

YAs from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela represented their countries at the SSWYF. In addition, some of them graduated from the SSIYLP in 2016.

National YA retreats were held in Cordoba, Argentina, in January 2017 and in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in April 2017. Both included human values–based workshops and plays based on the teachings of Sathya Sai Baba.



Brazil



Argentina

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03

ZONE 3

In January 2017, 60 YAs and older SSE students from New Zealand and other countries gathered at the Piha Mill Camp in Auckland, New Zealand, for an engaging three-day programme. To simulate contentious situations faced in everyday life, they were given various challenges and a practical toolbox to overcome these trials, based on Sathya Sai Baba's teachings.

Seventeen Young Adults of Australia coordinated an annual national blood and plasma donation drive, commencing in November 2016 and continuing through June 2017, resulting in a total of 345 blood, plasma, and platelet donations, potentially benefitting 1,035 patients. The YAs launched the project on social media, as a powerful tool for raising awareness in the broader community. The YAs successfully collaborated with Red Cross Australia, resulting in greater public visibility and support for the project.

In honour of World Human Values Day, 24th April, the SSIO of Fiji organised a Walk for Values in April 2017. YAs led the preparations, with guidance from senior SSIO members, and 50 YAs participated in the effort to raise awareness about our innate universal human values.



New Zealand

04

ZONE 4

To implement the Protect the Planet project, 220 YAs participated in activities at rehabilitation centres and animal shelters, and planned “green” initiatives aimed at protecting Mother Nature in several countries.

A group of 70 YAs graduated from the SSIYLP in 2016, and 10 YAs are serving in leadership roles within their own countries and at the international level, in the SSIO.

During 2016, YAs from Thailand and the Philippines increased their involvement in SSIO activities. Approximately 12 YA volunteers served in medical camps in the Philippines and participated in the international LASA music project. Sathya Sai youth also planned and implemented village service and water projects, benefitting local villagers in impoverished areas.



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05

ZONE 5

YAs in Taiwan and Hong Kong participated in the Love for Animals project. In Taiwan, representatives from environmental protection agencies gave talks on prevention of cruelty to animals. In Hong Kong, six YAs helped clean a cow shed and feed the cows.

Three YAs in Taiwan conducted SSEHV classes on weekends for Chinese students, in Mandarin. Additionally, they engaged in a Walk for Values event at Fu Riverside Park.

In Hong Kong, “Educare English Enhancement Programmes” were held at a local primary school, where several YAs volunteered. About 24 YAs also entertained people afflicted with mental challenges during the year, and distributed food, supplies, and hot vegetarian meals to the homeless. Seven YAs helped organise an Interfaith Walk for Values in March 2017.

In Japan and Hong Kong, YAs participated in Sathya Sai Baba’s Birthday celebrations.

Hong Kong



06

ZONE 6

In May and October 2016, seven YAs from all over Europe jointly produced two new editions of the magazine, LOVEExpress, featuring motivating articles, reflections on Sathya Sai Baba's universal teachings, inspiring stories, and healthy food recipes.

Nine YAs from Greece, Italy, Macedonia, Serbia, and Slovenia graduated from the SSIYLP in November 2016.

YAs led the Love for Animals programme in several countries of Zone 6.

In Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Macedonia, Serbia, Spain, and Switzerland, YAs joined in regular monthly service activities, providing food and clothing to the needy, visiting homes for the elderly, and helping children with various challenges.



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07

ZONE 7

In April 2016, 108 YAs attended a Pre-World Youth Festival in the United Kingdom. Following the event, more than 100 YAs from the Zone attended the SSWYF.

In Poland, six YAs regularly serve the needy. In the Czech Republic, YAs continue to look after dogs in animal shelters and take them for walks. In Hungary, four YAs organised Christmas and Easter meetings for people with special needs, alongside other members of the SSIO. In the UK, 35 YAs served the elderly and distributed Easter eggs to children in local hospitals. Twice a month in Latvia, six YAs gave SSEHV lessons to children.

Ten YAs from Zones 6 and 7 and others joined a music project as part of a band called YOUnity. They published a second music album, "Back to Self," featuring 13 human values-based songs.



Hungary

08

ZONE 8

YAs conducted conferences, meetings, and service camps, and participated in international medical camps. Twenty-one YAs engaged enthusiastically in the SSWYF, taking part in the exhibition and workshops. In 2016, 12 YAs from Zone 8 graduated from the SSIYLP, and worked on projects in environmental and educational areas.

A national health project initiated by YAs in November 2016 highlights the importance of righteousness, moral living, and practising a healthy lifestyle.

Every month, YAs organise study circles and meetings online. They also participate in an annual Zone 8 YA Conference.



9A

ZONE 9A

The YAs of South Africa served selected communities by holding medical camps, tutoring children, and distributing hampers of food and other items. In Cape Town, YAs worked closely to support the community of Khayelitsha. During the landmark 2017 Aradhana Mahotsavam programme on 30 April 2017 that drew 8,000 visitors, 400 YAs assisted with hospitality and food distribution.

Elsewhere in Africa, the drought in Kenya affected many families. In response, 10 YAs along with senior members of the SSIO of Kenya offered food, clothing, and supplies to 3,000 families, or 20,000 people in all. Each family was given a food hamper and clothing to help them through the difficult times.

The 2016 Love for Animals project in Mauritius saw 100 YAs assist in an exhibition to increase awareness about caring for animals. Volunteers showcased animal shelters and animal rescue organisations.

Approximately 20 YAs from Ghana taught human values to 80 young children and encouraged them to practise these values.

