



## Meher Center Youth Sahavas 2021

**Dear Friends,**

JAI BABA! We are very happy to announce that Meher Center is planning to host an on-site Youth Sahavas this summer from Monday, July 26 to Saturday, July 31. Given that major areas around the US are now beginning to gradually open up, we are hopeful that conditions will be suitable for the Youth Sahavas to take place at that time. However, should conditions change, we would, of course, have to cancel the event and would be in touch. We are looking forward to welcoming young people to Baba's Home this summer. This letter is for all who may be interested in applying to become a member of the counselor, workerwalla, kitchen, dishwalla, artwalla or musicwalla staff for the 2021 Youth Sahavas at Meher Center.

**This year's Sahavas is Monday, July 26 - Saturday, July 31.**

**Staff should arrive for training by Saturday, July 24 at 2:00 p.m. and stay until Sunday, August 1 at 5:00 p.m. for cleanup.**

If you are selected to be on staff and you agree to take the position offered to you, we ask that you arrive in time for our first meeting: 2:00 pm on Saturday afternoon, July 24. You are also asked to stay through the entire clean-up phase after the event, until 5 p.m. on Sunday, August 1.

If you anticipate any difficulty in participating for the whole event, please do indicate that on your application below in question 15.

Kitchen staff will be notified when to arrive directly by Roz. Kitchen staff can leave after kitchen breakdown--end of the day on Saturday, July 31.

### **COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS**

Please be assured that safety is our top priority at the Youth Sahavas. We will be following CDC guidelines for overnight camps. We encourage anyone who is eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine to do so two weeks prior to traveling to Sahavas to help us create a safe space for all who attend. We will be sharing more specific details in June, including requirements about COVID testing prior and during the event. Stay tuned for more information.

## **APPLICATIONS**

- All new applicants must complete the entire application form.
- Please send a picture of yourself with your application.
- If you have served as staff at the Sahavas in the past, you only need to provide current contact information and complete the last six questions.
- Those who have recently graduated from attending the Sahavas, or those who are new to the Sahavas, must first serve either as kitchen staff, as an artwalla, as a musicwalla, dishwalla or workerwalla before becoming a counselor.

**Please email your application to [gateway@mehercenter.org](mailto:gateway@mehercenter.org) by May 28, 2021.** We will confirm that we have received it. If you have not heard back from us by May 29 confirming that we received your application, please get in touch with us right away----sometimes things get misplaced or don't reach us. By June 7, staff selection will be completed.

## **STAFF DUTIES**

Duties for each staff group are listed in the next section. Above all, what is needed is your love for Meher Baba, your youthful energy and enthusiasm, and a spirit of willing discipline.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Much Love in Beloved Meher Baba,

### **The Youth Sahavas Committee**

*Buz and Wendy Connor, Michael Echeveste, Linda Hansen, Molly Irani, Annie Fahy Lawn, Allison Lawton, Rustom Meyer, Michelle McKeever, Christina Parsons, Daniel Peach, Barbara Plews, Kipper Schauer, Elly Drygas Szymanski, & Roz Taubman*

## YOUTH SAHAVAS STAFF DUTIES

All Youth Sahavas staff must make the work their priority for the entire week, beginning with orientation and ending with clean-up after Sahavas. Staff members must contribute to their team's effort, and work in full cooperation with their team's leader, the Sahavas coordinators, and with the Center's administration and staff.

### **Counselor Staff**

**Purpose:** To facilitate a community of teens coming together at Baba's home, and to help provide and create safety, communication, play and most importantly an environment of Baba's love.

#### **Duties:**

- 1) Be responsible 24 hours a day to the teens that are assigned to you for emotional and physical support.
- 2) Observe and enforce all guidelines and rules of the Center and the Youth Sahavas.
- 3) Follow through on all counselor requirements, including but not limited to:
  - a) attendance and participation in all counselor meetings
  - b) Facilitation of workshops, discussion groups, and activities assigned to you, such as planning events
  - c) Monitoring the teens in your group
  - d) Supervision and participation in the maintenance of your cabin and other assigned Center areas
  - e) Special attention and responsiveness to COVID precautions to maintain a safe YS for all concerned
- 4) Finally, being a counselor requires a willingness and ability to put one's own issues and needs aside to focus on the experience of the attendees. This is one of the most challenging and important aspects of the counselor's job. It requires that you be flexible, strong in yourself, communicative, open to Baba and focused on His Love.

*\*Note: staff must serve in one of the below roles before being eligible to be a counselor.\**

### **Workerwalla Staff**

**Purpose:** To be in service to the entire Youth Sahavas community.

**Duties:** Assist with all logistical aspects of Youth Sahavas, including but not limited to: registration, beach duty, program set-up/clean-up, and Center maintenance. Workerwallas must have a willingness to be in service-mode, and the ability to learn and adapt over the week. Workerwallas work 12 hour days in pairs, groups, and also individually. Special attention and responsiveness to COVID precautions to maintain a safe YS for all concerned.

There are four major Workerwalla "roles" requiring specific skills: Beach supervision – strong swimming, observation and focus skills; shuttles and errands – drivers license and (for some) ability to drive standard shift; activity set up – moving, lifting, carrying, assembling all kinds of things; independent work – cleaning and maintenance, self-directed and following directions.

### **Dishwalla Staff**

**Purpose:** To provide clean up for all food service throughout all of Sahavas--pre, post and during.

**Duties:** Assist with set-up of Youth Sahavas kitchen and clean up area; clean all kitchen equipment before Sahavas begins; provide clean up for pre and post-Sahavas meals; provide all meal clean up during the event; coordinate with kitchen staff throughout Sahavas, and with pre and-post volunteer cooks before and after the event. Special attention and responsiveness to COVID precautions to maintain a safe YS for all concerned.

### **Artwalla Staff**

**Purpose:** To help Sahavas participants express themselves through artistic creation.

**Duties:** Set up specialized stations for art making in the Art Tent and elsewhere to be easy-to-use, well-organized, inviting, and beautiful. Train to teach participants the use of stations in the Art Tent. Support other staff groups in creating Sahavas-enhancing art projects (e.g. Center decorations). Clean and organize the Art Tent continuously. Teach participants, assist participants in troubleshooting projects. Lead workshops, support workshop leaders. Reorganize, break down, and pack up stations rapidly and efficiently. Special attention and responsiveness to COVID precautions to maintain a safe YS for all concerned.

Prior experience in making art or craft is helpful but not necessary. More important is that applicants possess: 1) stamina to work long hours in an extremely hot tent, 2) ability and willingness to think critically and problem-solve creatively, 3) a detail-oriented mindset, 4) ability to learn new skills rapidly, and 5) enthusiasm for teaching others.

### **Musicwalla Staff**

**Purpose:** To work with on-site coordinators in planning and implementing the various musical activities during the Youth Sahavas.

**Duties:** Conduct music workshops, help with the square dance, play at morning and afternoon artis, hold jams during beach, play at the Dhuni, help participants prepare for the Celebration, help with Celebration performances, play at the Barn program, play spontaneously during the event, and be available for casual interactions with participants in relation to music. Special attention and responsiveness to COVID precautions to maintain a safe YS for all concerned.

### **Kitchen Staff**

**Purpose:** To make sure that all who are involved with the Youth Sahavas are well-fed.

**Duties:** Shopping, organization, preparation, execution, and service for all meals served at the Sahavas. Job assignments can begin at 5:30 a.m., and the work is hot and demanding. No cooking experience required. Special attention and responsiveness to COVID precautions to maintain a safe YS for all concerned.

## STAFF APPLICATION FORM 2021

**\*\* Sahavas is Monday, July 26 - Saturday, July 31 \*\***

**\*\* Staff from Saturday, July 24 at 2:00 p.m. until Sunday, August 1 at 5:00 p.m. \*\***

### Registration Deadline: May 28, 2021

- Download and fill out the form below on your computer and email it to [gateway@mehercenter.org](mailto:gateway@mehercenter.org)
- Print out the form, complete it, scan or take photo and email it to [gateway@mehercenter.org](mailto:gateway@mehercenter.org)
- Print it out, complete it and mail it to:  
Meher Center, Attn: Youth Sahavas, 10200 N. Kings Hwy., Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
- Any questions, please call the Gateway at 843-272-5777.

If you have not heard from us by May 29 confirming that we received your application, please get in touch with us right away - sometimes things get misplaced or don't reach us. By June 7, staff selection will be completed.

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_ | Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Address: home \_\_\_\_\_

school address (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best way to reach you in the next few weeks? Phone \_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_

### **For NEW applicants only (Questions 1 - 7):**

1) What do you understand the purpose of the Youth Sahavas to be?

2) What experience do you have working with young people?

3) Have you attended the Youth Sahavas? If so, which years?

4) Please describe your interest in Meher Baba's life and teachings.

5) Do you feel you have the emotional and physical stamina to handle the demands of a 16-20 hour day in the summer heat?

6) When stressful situations arise at the Sahavas, list some potential ways you will personally cope with them.

7) Please list two references known to Meher Center:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**For ALL Applicants (Questions 8 - 15):**

8) If you were on the Youth Sahavas staff before, what positions did you hold? Which years?

9) Please check the position for which you are applying (check only one) and explain the reason for your choice:

Artwalla \_\_\_\_\_ Counselor \_\_\_\_\_ Dishwalla \_\_\_\_\_

Musicwalla \_\_\_\_\_ Kitchen Staff \_\_\_\_\_ Workerwalla \_\_\_\_\_

*First Choice Reason:*

10) If for some reason you're not chosen for the job you want, would you be interested in another job during the Sahavas? Which one(s)?

11) Please list any dietary needs or food allergies you may have:

Vegetarian\_\_\_ Vegan \_\_\_ Gluten-free \_\_\_ Other dietary restrictions, if applicable:

12) Have you received your COVID-19 vaccine?

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I am fully vaccinated.

\_\_\_\_ Not yet, but plan to be fully vaccinated at least two weeks before traveling to the Sahavas.

\_\_\_\_ No, for medical or personal reasons.

13) Do you have any health concerns or conditions that you are managing or that might be an issue during Sahavas?

14) What is your t-shirt size? (Adult sizes only): \_\_\_\_\_

15) Anything else you would like us to know? *Please also indicate here if you would need to arrive late or depart early from the Sahavas.*

**REQUIRED SIGNATURE FOR ALL APPLICANTS**

It is required that all Youth Sahavas staff understand and comply with Meher Baba's wish that we do not use illegal drugs as well as all other Sahavas and Center policies, including COVID-19 policies. Please sign here to indicate your confirmation of this:

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Signature