

Youth Sahavas Job Descriptions

Youth Sahavas Jobs:

[Artwalla](#)

[Counselor](#)

[Dishwalla](#)

[Kitchen Staff](#)

[Musicwalla](#)

[Workerwalla](#)

Artwalla

The Opportunity

Artwallas help Youth Sahavas Participants express themselves and process their experience through artistic creation. This role combines practical art instruction with creating a supportive environment where young people feel comfortable experimenting with new mediums and sharing their creative voice.

The Work

The Art Tent is an outside space and staffers must be able to work in a hot and humid climate. Responsibilities include:

- 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. decorations around Meher Center)
- 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
- Attend team check-ins
- Work as a team and adhere to decisions made by the Art Tent Coordinator that may include actions taken for heat safety, weather-proofing the Art Tent, or making accommodations for a workshop or special project
- Make a concerted effort to know the Participants, especially those that visit the Art Tent

Key Qualities

Prior experience in making art or craft is helpful but not necessary. More important is that applicants possess:

- Stamina to work long hours in an extremely hot tent
- Ability and willingness to think critically and problem-solve creatively
- A detail-oriented mindset
- Ability to learn new skills rapidly
- Enthusiasm for teaching others
- Warm and non-judgmental encouragement that normalizes creative exploration

Counselor

The Opportunity

Counselors help to form a safe community of teens coming together in Baba's home and facilitate connection, play and most importantly an environment of Baba's love where his Life & Message can be experienced.

The Work

Counselors at the Youth Sahavas attend to the safety and engagement of the Participants, ultimately fostering an event that is in alignment to Meher Baba & the Meher Center's directives. Responsibilities include:

- Build a supportive relationship with the Participants assigned to you and making a concerted effort to know all other Participants that you interact with
- Be available 24 hours a day to the teens that are assigned to you for emotional, psychological, and physical support

- Observe and enforce all guidelines and rules of the Meher Center and the Youth Sahavas; this includes the clear communication of those rules to the teens in your group and impressing the importance of following them
- Make every effort to create an unbiased, safe, and loving environment for the participants and allow them the freedom to create their own personal Sahavas experience
- Keep a watchful eye on all participants and raise concerns of any problematic situations (e.g. youth seeming left out, any signs of emotional distress, issues or disagreements between the young person that may need attention, etc.)
- Follow through on all counselor duties including but not limited to:
 - Attendance and participation in all counselor meetings
 - Beach time supervision
 - Facilitation of discussion groups, workshops, or special activities assigned to you;
 - Prompt attention and response to any issues that arise;
 - Engaging staff coordinators for support whenever needed;
 - Awareness of the location of the teens in your group as much as possible;
 - Care for Meher Center property, your cabin and any other areas assigned to your group
- Work as a team, engage the supervision of group coordinators and adhere to decisions made by the coordinators. While each counselor will bring to the Sahavas a unique perspective, identity, and personality, it is important that counselors recognize the importance of this collaboration to create a safe and inclusive environment.
- 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 of us that we be flexible, strong in ourselves, communicative, open to Baba, and focused on His love.
- Modeling cooperation with other Youth Sahavas staff in the shared purpose that is fostering an atmosphere of Baba's loving presence

Key Qualities

Prior experience in working with younger populations is helpful but not necessary. More important is that applicants possess:

- At least 1 prior term of service as Youth Sahavas staff
- Ability to learn and remember new names and faces

- Willingness to be a responsible and supportive presence in one on one and group settings
- Stamina to engage in a long day of organized activities from breakfast-time staff meetings to midnight or 1am curfew
- Mentor mindset (i.e. willing to communicate expectations and support teens as they navigate a new environment, choosing how to show up and engage each day)
 - Staying present and approachable while giving participants space to find their own way
 - Ability to recognize and redirect self-criticism gently, helping participants reframe “I’m not good at this” into “I’m trying something new”

Dishwalla

The Opportunity

Dishwallas are essential to ensuring the food-safety and enjoyable meal service at the Youth Sahavas for all participants. This behind-the-scenes service is both a contribution to the collective and a personal journey toward greater responsibility within our community.

The Work: The small team works beside the kitchen every day in an outdoor wash station. Their work service is essential to the health and practical safety of the event in Baba's home. By ensuring a steady supply of sanitary supplies, it enables the Kitchen Staff to focus efficiently on creating nourishing and delicious meals and snacks for everyone at the event. Responsibilities include:

- Washing & sanitizing- scrape, scrub, rinse, sanitize and dry items of various sizes
- Report to all meals as scheduled- starting upon arrival, this team will wash all dishes, utensils, and cookware that are used or needed by the kitchen for all meals including pre- and post-sahavas
 - This may involve cleaning some dishes before the meal.
- Maintenance of the wash station- keep the dishwashing area, floors, and equipment clean and clutter-free
 - Coordinate with the Meher Center Staff and Kitchen Staff during the event to ensure optimal function of our event infrastructure
- Cooperation with other Youth Sahavas staff in the shared purpose that is fostering an atmosphere of Baba's loving presence

- Interact with Participants in other casual moments, making a concerted effort to know them
- Maintain the spirit of the Youth Sahavas
- Respond to tasks as needed to support the Youth Sahavas and/or other Staff groups

Key Qualities

This is a small and essential team that thrives on

- Good time-management and commitment to schedules
- Physical stamina for standing, bending, and lifting for several hours each day
- Sense of humor about getting wet or messy
- Attention to detail for cleanliness and hygiene
- Mindset of servitude and the willingness to make dish-washing your priority for the entire week, starting with 'Pre-Sahavas' orientation and ending with the final clean-up day 'post-Sahavas'
- Interest in contributing toward a team effort

Kitchen Staff

The Opportunity

Kitchen Staff at Youth Sahavas take on one of the gathering's essential roles, preparing three generous meals daily for ~150 people in a makeshift outdoor kitchen during peak summer heat. Working with rented industrial equipment in a covered garage where temperatures regularly exceed 90°F, this team transforms basic facilities into an operation that delivers famously delicious, abundant meals while accommodating numerous dietary restrictions. Kitchen Staff alumni consistently describe this role as transformative, finding deep satisfaction in nourishing the community and discovering joy through shared labor. The kitchen becomes its own intense community within the Youth Sahavas, where discipline meets laughter, exhaustion meets accomplishment, and simple meal preparation becomes an act of love that sustains the entire gathering.

The Work

This is rigorous physical work that demands early mornings, long hours over hot stoves, and unwavering attention to food safety and quality. Responsibilities include:

- Unwavering attention to food safety and quality
- Adhere to the Chef's directions and schedules

- Cooperation with each other and other Staff
- Rest when possible (Note: egos don't survive the heat, tight quarters, and relentless pace)

Key Qualities

Prior experience in a professional kitchen is helpful but not necessary. More important is that applicants possess:

- Able to take direction and adhere to a schedule
- Discipline
- Attention to detail
- Clear communication
- Sense of humor
- Tolerance for high heat

Musicwalla

The Opportunity

Musicwallas help shape the atmosphere of Youth Sahavas, weaving music throughout the gathering to create moments of connection, celebration, devotion, and reflection. By bringing thoughtful musical presence to both structured programs and spontaneous moments, Musicwallas help create the backdrop of beauty and joy that allows participants to open their hearts.

The Work

This role involves planning and leading musical activities - from morning Arti to evening performances - while remaining responsive to the energy and needs of each moment. Musicwallas host daily open-jams as an alternative for Beach time, coordinate afternoon music workshops, facilitate group singing, and ensure that music enhances rather than overwhelms the gathering's flow. Responsibilities include:

- Rehearsing to become familiar playing or singing the music used throughout the event
- Play music independently, with other Musicwallas, and/or with Participants during the following activities/events:
 - Opening day (infusing special locations like registration at the Gateway or first meetings at Meher Cafe)

- Square dance
- Artis
- Music Jams during beach time
- Dhuni
- Meal lines
- Celebration
- Barn Program
- Other activities and events as needed
- Lead music workshops for the participants during workshop time
- Support participants with preparation for Celebration and accompany Participant performances as needed
- Cooperation with other Youth Sahavas staff in the shared purpose that is fostering an atmosphere of Baba's loving presence
 - Interact with participants in other casual moments
 - Maintain the spirit of the Youth Sahavas
 - Respond to tasks as needed to support the Youth Sahavas and/or other Staff groups
- Make a concerted effort to know the Participants, especially those that express an interest in music

Key Qualities:

- Musical versatility and adaptability - comfort leading group singing, curating songs and working across genres to meet diverse musical tastes and program needs
- Stamina and consistency - maintain positive presence through long days and multiple performances, bring fresh energy to the tenth sing-along as much as the first
 - Willingness to make the work your priority for the entire week, starting with the orientation and ending with cleaning up the day after the event.
 - Collaborative spirit - working smoothly with other Musicwallas and Staff groups, sharing the spotlight generously, and supporting others' musical contributions
- Inclusive facilitation skills - ability to create welcoming musical spaces for all skill levels, encouraging participation without pressuring, and celebrating every voice in the circle
- Technical reliability - ability to manage sound equipment competently, troubleshoot basic audio issues, and maintain organized music resources throughout the gathering

- Strong situational awareness - read the room effectively, know when to energize or calm a space
- Warm and non-judgmental encouragement that normalizes creative exploration

Workerwalla

The Opportunity

Workerwallas maintain the infrastructure that allows Youth Sahavas to run smoothly - from keeping spaces clean and organized to setting up program areas and ensuring equipment is where it needs to be. The work of this critical team directly impacts every Participant's experience by creating consistently welcoming, prepared spaces throughout the gathering. Through reliable behind-the-scenes service, Workerwallas make it possible for young people to fully engage in the retreat environment and special programs without distraction or delay.

The Work

As a collective, the Workerwalla team is responsible for setting up, managing, and cleaning up from events. They also support way-finding and engagement by transporting Participants, posting signs and facilitating ad-hoc communication across the event. Additionally, this team is responsible for the care and cleaning of the Meher Center communal buildings in use during the Youth Sahavas. All of this work makes it possible for Participants and Staff to focus on building and experiencing an environment of Baba's love. This work regularly extends to support other Staff groups as needed. Responsibilities are divided among the team but will include:

- Pre-Sahavas set up including the assembly of Participant packets, decorating the Meeting Place, the meal tent, other communal spaces, and the preparation of cabins
- Attend daily check-ins with team and coordinators
- Assist with arrival activities on Day 1 for participants (e.g. Participant registration, helping Participants with their luggage, shuttling Participants to their cabins, attending to Meher Cafe, sharing the menu of opening day activities with the Participants)
- Efficient set-up and clean-up of all daily Youth Sahavas activities including morning arti, meals, beach time, evening programs, etc.
- Pro-actively support the safety and comfort of daily beach time by

- setting up water stations, sunscreen and games in advance of Participants
- shuttle Participants to and from beach
- cooperate with on-duty lifeguards to monitor people in the ocean
- clean up whatever supplies were brought to the beach and return them to appropriate locations in Meher Center
- support the Beach Coordinator with any other duties
- Daily coordination with the Kitchen Staff to set up and clean up the afternoon Snack and late-night Dessert
- Cooperate with Meher Center Staff to ensure
 - appropriate care and cleaning of all communal spaces on the Meher Center including the Meeting Place, Original Kitchen, Refectory, Lagoon Cabin, Boathouse, Barn, all bathrooms, playground, gazebo, rec room, etc.
 - Maintain regular trash service
- Post-Youth Sahavas clean up including communal spaces, putting away costumes, taking down the mail room, etc.
- Support the enjoyment of special programming by cooperating with staff coordinators and Meher Center Staff. Work differs based on programming but may look like:
 - Artis
 - Deliver equipment and set up prior to start
 - Clean up after
 - Dances
 - Clear chairs and equipment from prior Meeting Place activities with care
 - Sweep the floor after the last song
 - Dhuni program
 - Supporting Meher Center Staff with digging the fire pit
 - Collecting event supplies including tarps, lights, bug spray, song books, saris, etc.
 - Setting up and cleaning up the playground
 - Supporting the Musicwallas with their set up
 - Patrolling the perimeter of the gathering to watch for snakes, ensuring the safety of all
 - Barn program
 - Supporting Meher Center Staff with collecting and laying out rugs
 - Collecting event supplies including water coolers, fans, extension cords, song books, lights, saris, garland, etc.
 - Supporting the Musicwallas with their set up

- Cleaning up the Barn
- Celebration program
 - Supporting the Program Coordinators with Meeting Place set up including pre-cleaning, setting up chairs for the audience, organizing the stage, and assisting with special requests to aid Participant performers
 - Support the Participant performers by cooperating with the Program Coordinators to facilitate confident transitions for all performances; this include stage-hand work and audience support
- Cooperation with other Youth Sahavas staff in the shared purpose that is fostering an atmosphere of Baba's loving presence
 - Interact with Participants in other casual moments, making a concerted effort to know them
 - Maintain the spirit of the Youth Sahavas
 - Respond to tasks as needed to support the Youth Sahavas and/or other Staff groups

Key Qualities

A successful Workerwalla brings genuine enthusiasm for supporting others through practical service, understanding that maintaining facilities and logistics is vital to the gathering's success. They demonstrate consistent reliability - showing up on time, following through on tasks without reminders, and staying engaged even during repetitive work. Strong candidates also possess:

- Observant problem-solving abilities - notice what needs attention and take initiative to address it
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a team
- Commitment to maintain positive energy through long days and physical tasks
- Interest in contributing to something larger than themselves, appreciating how steady, humble work enables meaningful experiences for the entire Youth Sahavas community
- Willingness to make the work your priority for the entire event, starting with the orientation and ending with cleaning up the day after the event