

SERVICE DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE

Local Vaishnavi's representative

BACKGROUND

In order to better serve the interests of Vaishnavi's in North America, Govinda Priya was appointed as the Vaishnavi Minister for North America.

She suggested that a local Vaishnavi's representative be selected for each temple or community.

The local Vaishnavi's representatives then liaise with the Vaishnavi Minister to be her point of contact in each temple or center and also the point of contact for the local Vaishnavis. This serves very well, giving encouragement to the Vaishnavis in a hands-on way and also a person of authority women can go to if they are having any issues.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE ROLE FOR THE LOCAL VAISHNAVI'S REPRESENTATIVE

Regular and steady sadhana

Be a member in good standing in the devotional community

Demonstrated ability to honor confidentiality

Good verbal and written communication skills

Ability to adhere to deadlines

Empathetic, yet professional behavior

Demonstrated ability to work as part of a team

Leadership qualities

Experienced in devotional service with at least five year's steady service.

The local Vaishnavi's representative should be in regular contact with the Vaishnavi Minister. Together they will develop programs and initiatives to help support and promote the role of Vaishnavis in their local centers, thus galvanizing their abilities constructively.

The overall brief is to develop strategies under the guidance of the Vaishnavi Minister to help spiritually educate, encourage, empower and support Vaishnavis. This will be with the view to assisting them to be exemplary devotees in accord with Srila Prabhupada's mission and the GBC.

Contact with the Vaishnavi's minister will be on a regular basis (usually once quarterly), unless there is an emergency of some kind, such as a report of some violation of Vaishnavi's rights in the temple or center. In this situation, the local women's representative will contact Govinda Priya Dd, and also notify the local Temple President. Full confidentiality must be maintained.

TIME COMMITMENT

Time investment will be required to do the following:

- A regular phone or Skype call with the Vaishnavi 's Minister (ranging from 15 minutes to 30 minutes). Details of this will be established after communication with each local Vaishnavi's representative, but most likely to be quarterly.
- Additionally, an on-the-ground organization of programs for women such as:
 - * Creation of a Vaishnavi Committee if needed, whereby the active women in the community can help you develop different programs, such as the ones below. In small temples, this may not be necessary. It should be a collaborative effort from Vaishnavis active in the community.

* Encouraging and training Vaishnavi's to give classes. (These can be classes to other Vaishnavis or in the temple for *Srimad-Bhagavatam* and/or *Bhagavad-gita* classes.) Training may be provided by an experienced lecturer, either male or female. This is not to be imposed on the local Vaishnavis, but only if they have a desire to give SB or BG classes.

* Sloka groups. Encouraging single or married women to study key slokas to be used in preaching and delivery of classes.

* Reading circles. Developing reading circles amongst Vaishnavis who live close to each other who meet regularly to study Srila Prabhupada's books. These also help Vaishnavis develop loving, spiritual relationships with each other.

* Arranging Vaishnavi-led programs. Other workshops or gatherings can be arranged in accordance with each center's needs and with the permission of the TP.

* Working in the local devotee community to establish relationships and be able to brainstorm other programs that will nurture and encourage Vaishnavis to be focused in a balanced way on their spiritual life in order to create a harmonious family life. These will be discussed with and approved by the TP and the Women's Minister before implementation.

NOTE: In the spirit of cooperation, etiquette and Vaishnava methodology, any local initiatives will be *first* communicated to the Vaishnavi 's Minister. *Secondly*, the temple authority's permission is then sought before any further action or programs are implemented. *It is very important that the Temple President or temple council is included before any implementation is enacted.*

PLEASE CONTACT US TO VOLUNTEER OR LEARN MORE!

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