WILL IT WORK?

It's simple. We know this will work because we've seen it work. We've researched the impact that cultural escapes can have on the Youth of America. Growing up in the melting pot of the United States is still a fairly new circumstance compared to other deeply-rooted cultures that have had centuries to ingrain their communities with traditions and heritage. We've seen cultures that are ahead of ours in population-growth struggle under the increasing presence of American-born youths, and have observed the ways in which they were able to handle the balance between teaching pride for both nationality and religion.

"Estimates say there are over 12000 camps in the US annually, attended by 11 million children and adults. These communities have realized what we need to- that allowing youth to connect with one another in social and physical ways, in addition to cultural and moral ways, will set the stones for them to continue to give back and cultivate their communities. In an American context, where public school textbooks, university curriculum, and mainstream media often function to lead young Hindus to question and misunderstand their faith, enough cannot be said about the importance of creating Hindu youth institutions like a campsite to strengthen their sense of Dharma where other institutions won't."

> - Kavita Pallod Sekhsaria, Psy.D, National Team Member, Hindu American Foundation Hindu Chaplain, American University



RENDERING OF THE CABINS OF THE TEXAS-HINDU CAMPSITE

TIERS OF DONATIONS

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Donor Donating \$5,000 or more will have his/her name engraved on the wall of Donors.

This will be the FIRST HINDU CAMPSITE in the entire country available to all Hindus. Four donors have contributed almost a million dollars to buy the 37 acres of land for ONLY ONE REASON...This will allow us to provide a valuable camp experience to hundreds of youths who are denied admission each year due to lack of facilities. Our own facility will allow us to hold multiple camps throughout the year. NO MORE sad faces of youth who could NOT get in. The Hindu youths are looking to you to help build the facilities.

Our goal is to raise 4.5 million dollars to complete the campsite to accommodate up to 200 campers and counselors including cabins to stay, kitchen and dining hall, auditorium with classrooms, swimming pool, basketball court, expanded lake, and other gaming facilities.

Double your contribution as one of the four donors who contributed for land purchase is matching your contribution up to one million dollars.

> Please make check payable to "Texas Hindu Campsite" and send your Tax Deductible contributions to: **Texas Hindu Campsite** 40 Harbore View Drive, Sugar Land, TX 77479



Non-Profit, Tax Exempt 501(C)3 Organization (84-3444788)



WELCOME

In the last 20 years, the Hindu American population in Texas has risen from 50,000 to over 150,000 today. It's even expected to rise to over 220,000 by 2030 as the first generation of **American-Born-Yet-Proudly-Hindu** (ABYPH) parents build roots and start families of their own on American soil. As we experience this growth, there has been an increasing struggle seen in the children of the ABYPHs. Alongside juggling the formative years of their lives, they often struggle to balance the Americanization of the culture around them with the rich Hindu values from their heritage.

With the mission to inspire this new generation of Hindus to embrace and adapt to the Hindu way of life, many youth and family camps were created here in Texas. Until now, these youth and family camps have been renting established campgrounds, often building their camps around the cultures that the existing facilities were originally made to accommodate... well, no more!

As the first campground built with the Hindu American in mind, the Texas-Hindu Campsite will be designed as a bridge between all of the Hindu communities across Texas that are in need of a uniquely Hindu place of gathering.

In order to achieve our vision of Fun, Sun & Hinduism, we need your help. It is solely due to the generosity and dedication of our previous donors that we have come this far, and we are deeply grateful to any further donors who help us bring this dream to life. The impact on the future generations, which you'll see detailed below, will be everlasting. Having a hand in the building of this campsite will be an eternal mark of the power of Hindus when they come together.

DO WE REALLY NEED A CAMPSITE?

A campsite devoted to Hindu usage is a resource the Texas Hindu community has been missing for decades. With the goal to give the Texas Hindu community an asset in the development of future generations, we are devoting this campground to the betterment of future generations, while also immersing them in a uniquely Hindu environment. This campsite is being built with the future of Hinduism in mind, while paying tribute to the centuries of tradition and values that have come before.

ARE CAMPS REALLY THAT IMPACTFUL?

"The camp experience has been proven to have a lasting effect on psychosocial development, including significant effects on self-esteem, peer relationships, independence, leadership, values, and willingness to try new things. Camps also offer an opportunity to overcome a lack of connection with the natural environment, which has been associated with depression, attention disorders, and obesity."

- Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics

"Camp provides a valuable experience for all children in attendance. Not only does camp provide a meaningful experience for spiritual and personal growth, but also helps today's children prepare to be tomorrow's leaders. The values, camaraderie, and discipline taught at camp are important to help prepare children for the future. As a former counselor and director [of HHYC], I know that having a permanent campsite is of utmost importance. The security of a selfowned campsite will remove barriers, limitations that currently prevent [Hindu Camps] from providing the richest experience possible for all youth."

- Dr. Rupak Gandhi, Ph.D., Superintendent of Fargo Public Schools, A long time attendee, counselor & former director of HGH's Hindu Heritage Youth Camp

WHY DO WE NEED THIS NOW?

"My first year directing, in 2014, we were caught completely off guard when our host campsite told us they were sold and unable to host us after over 20 years of tradition. We scrambled to find a new site, just weeks before the start of summer. We found just 1 available but it was perfect and we thought this was our new home. Until again the same news was broke to us in April 2021. Fortunately we found another beautiful site that opened their doors to us. But we're now at our third campsite in 8 years, and have the learned the only home is the one you own."

- Sagar Patel, Member of Hindu Heritage Youth Camp's Steering Committee

