



Hindu American Seva Charities (HASC)

UtsavSeva (FestivalSeva) Calendar

- Invoking Spiritual Values of Festivals through Community Service –

Month	Festival	Seva	Meaning	How to of the Seva (<u>examples</u>) for Seva Centers	
				Suggested Customized	Suggested Ongoing
January	Makara Sankranti Pongal Thaipusam MLK Day of Service National Mentoring Month	ShantiSeva	Withdrawing from unethical and disturbing behavior and making a commitment to uphold universal values that promote harmony and mutual respect. Thanking Mother Earth for all Her Gifts.	Peace through acts of kindness to all Forgive others and self Visit elderly, honor family Visit animal shelters/adopt. Be environmentally friendly Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Mentoring	Yoga & Health –Medical/Nutrition/class Food Banks/Soup Kitchens Walking/Walkathon – Count miles Education – ESL/SAT/Vedic Mathematic Employment/Immigrant assistance Interfaith focus & seva collaboration Katha/kahani story telling
February –	Vasant Panchami Shigmo Valentines Day	KalyanSeva	Commitment to the welfare of all beings, to integrate spiritual knowledge within ((Saraswati) cultivate values, understand religious discipline.. Act for the good of all in harmony with environment	Seva of Friendship and arts Share music, arts, drama with diverse neighbors of other faiths Foster harmony through arts Outward sharing resources -food etc Conduct acts of honor with ove Visit elderly, shut-ins	Yoga & Health –Medical/Nutrition/class Food Banks/Soup Kitchens Walking/Walkathon – Count miles Education – ESL/SAT/Vedic Mathematic Employment/Immigrant assistance Interfaith focus & seva collaboration Katha/kahani story telling
March –	Maha Shivaratri Holi Women’s history month	VishwaSeva	Celebrating the equality of all human beings, regardless of religion, race, color, gender, socio-economic status, etc. Holi colors show equalizing with all. Worship of Shiva, the one in whom all resolve.	Seva of equality to all Help minorities/ refugees/ under privileged Women’s celebrations Honor men Youth – mentoring, development Seva of family togetherness	Yoga & Health –Medical/Nutrition/class Food Banks/Soup Kitchens Walking/Walkathon – Count miles Education – ESL/SAT/Vedic Mathematic Employment/Immigrant assistance Interfaith focus & seva collaboration Katha/kahani story telling

The strength of the Dharmic culture is the multitude ways in which the Puranas, (ancient traditional stories and epics) are brought to life through festivals. These festivals play an important role in expressing the spiritual significance in a celebratory, joyous ways while bringing people together. In these times of need, we need to serve and share our resources and collectively develop our diverse communities. HASCs has developed a unique program, UtsavSeva which invokes the spiritual values of the festivals with Community Service throughout the year! HASC has identified many ways in which to serve. We request all our partners to provide data online at our website.





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April	Hindu New Year Ram Navami/ Mahavir Jayanti /Hanuman Jayanti /Swaminarayan Jayanti /Gudi Padwa /Ugadi / Onam / Vaisakhi /Visu /Easter	BhaktiSeva	Living a life that contributes to the well-being of others. Victory of dharma (goodness) over adharma (unrighteous). Victory of good over evil.	Serve with devotion Acts of new beginning Let go of past through thoughts, deed, actions Forgive others and self Clean house and donate	Yoga & Health –Medical/Nutrition/class Food Banks/Soup Kitchens Walking/Walkathon – Count miles Education – ESL/SAT/Vedic Mathematic Employment/Immigrant assistance Interfaith focus & seva collaboration Katha/kahani story telling
May	Buddha Jayanti – Shankaracharya Jayanti Akshay Tertiya Tapa Memorial Day Mothers Day	BhumiSeva VidyaSeva	Serve Mother Earth in all ways With right knowledge protect the environment. Promote Spiritual Knowledge/Ahimsa. Honor Hindu men and women, of all faiths, who serve in line of duty. Participate in remembrance activities.	Seva with right knowledge Acts of non-violence. Plant trees. Community gardening. Education: Donate books, Free tuition for a child in need, Volunteer to teach and share Conduct Memorial Services in temples; honor all in service	Yoga & Health –Medical/Nutrition/class Food Banks/Soup Kitchens Walking/Walkathon – Count miles Education – ESL/SAT/Vedic Mathematic Employment/Immigrant assistance Interfaith focus & seva collaboration Katha/kahani story telling
June	Guru Arjan Dev Fathers Day	AnnaDaanam Seva	Food Security and Giving	Seva with environmental focus Organize free meals at temples Youth – summer education Gardening Plant trees Clean public space Organize free meals at temples	Yoga & Health –Medical/Nutrition/class Food Banks/Soup Kitchens Walking/Walkathon – Count miles Education – ESL/SAT/Vedic Mathematic Employment/Immigrant assistance Interfaith focus & seva collaboration Katha/kahani story telling

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July	July 4th	BhumiSeva	National service	Seva with environmental focus Youth – summer education Gardening Plant trees Clean public space Organize free meals at temples Health camps	Yoga & Health –Medical/Nutrition/class Food Banks/Soup Kitchens Walking/Walkathon – Count miles Education – ESL/SAT/Vedic Mathematic Employment/Immigrant assistance Interfaith focus & seva collaboration Katha/kahani story telling
August	Raksha Bandhan Paryushan Parva	MitraSeva	Protection, Service, Refuge	Seva of friendship Tie rakhi for others, mail to deployed in Military, service veterans, firefighters, cops, medics Youth – summer education Gardening/Environment Organize free meals at temples	Yoga & Health –Medical/Nutrition/class Food Banks/Soup Kitchens Walking/Walkathon – Count miles Education – ESL/SAT/Vedic Mathematic Employment/Immigrant assistance Interfaith focus & seva collaboration Katha/kahani story telling
September	Krishna Jayanti, Ganesh Chaturthi 9/11 / National Day of Remembrance Gandhi’s Satyagraha Swami Vivekananda Das Lakshan	YogaSeva	Yoga Month	Seva for peace and inner harmony Nationwide Yogathon Organize prayers for peace/ events to remember Satyagraha movement and Swami Vivekananda’s speech Be environmentally friendly Organize free meals at temples	Yoga & Health –Medical/Nutrition/class Food Banks/Soup Kitchens Walking/Walkathon – Count miles Education – ESL/SAT/Vedic Mathematic Employment/Immigrant assistance Interfaith focus & seva collaboration Katha/kahani story telling

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October	Navaratri Vijaydashami Gyan Panchami Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence awareness month	ShaktiSeva	Invoke the feminine strength	Seva focused on women Honor women at Navaratri events Have female military members relay their stories of courage Share/publicize stories of strength Volunteer for domestic violence Organize free meals at temples	Yoga & Health –Medical/Nutrition/class Food Banks/Soup Kitchens Walking/Walkathon – Count miles Education – ESL/SAT/Vedic Mathematic Employment/Immigrant assistance Interfaith focus & seva collaboration Katha/kahani story telling
November	Diwali Lakshmi Puja Bhaiyadooj Karthikai Deepam Veterans Day Thanksgiving Eid	DhanSeva	Removal of ignorance with the light of knowledge and triumph of goodness over evil. Triumph of dharma over adharma. Emphasis on the importance of giving. Sharing of resources—wealth, knowledge, skills.	Seva to share resources and foster brotherhood Economic empowerment Conduct events to honor Veterans Engage Hindu/Dharmic Military to speak at community events Organize free meals at temples	Yoga & Health –Medical/Nutrition/class Food Banks/Soup Kitchens Walking/Walkathon – Count miles Education – ESL/SAT/Vedic Mathematic Employment/Immigrant assistance Interfaith focus & seva collaboration Katha/kahani story telling
December	Pancha Ganapati Hanukkah Bodhi Day Christmas Muharram Kwanzaa Gita Jayanti	SarvaDharmaSeva	Interfaith service – in which the Dharmic people (Hindus, Buddhist, Jains and Sikhs and other eastern faiths) continue to foster respect and understanding.	Seva focus - interfaith collaboration In the spirit of inter-faith cooperation: work on the holy days, (Christmas, Chanukah, Muharram, Kwanza) of other faiths Serve people of other faiths Organize free meals at temples	Yoga & Health –Medical/Nutrition/class Food Banks/Soup Kitchens Walking/Walkathon – Count miles Education – ESL/SAT/Vedic Mathematic Employment/Immigrant assistance Interfaith focus & seva collaboration Katha/kahani story telling

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