

THE JAIN YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM (JYEP) **USA to India**

JAINA, *Federation of Jain Associations in North America*, in collaboration with JITO, *Jain International Trade Organization*, Ahmedabad (Gujarat) is proud to present the second phase of Jain Youth Exchange Program [JYEP].

JITO (www.jitoahmedabad.org) is the largest organization of Jain businesses, industrialists, and professionals in India. JAINA (www.jaina.org) is the largest organization of Jains in North America.

The Jain Youth Exchange Program offers exposure to different cultures ranks as one of the most powerful ways to promote Indian culture and Jain way of life. The Jain Youth Exchange program intends to provide hundreds of young students with the opportunity to meet people from other countries and to experience new cultures, planting the seeds for a lifetime of international understanding. The program plans to offers numerous benefits to its young participants and their hosts and mentors, Jain leadership in India, as well as to the Jain community at large in India.

Through Jain Youth Exchange, students learn firsthand about all aspects of life in another country. As their concept of the world expands, they mature and develop a deeper understanding of themselves. Immersion in another country's value system enhances their academic, professional, social, and personal growth. Host Jain Center's, families and the entire community are enriched by extended, friendly contact with someone from a different family/culture.

The Jain students (applicants) go through a rigorous testing and selection process before they are selected to be a JYEP candidate. Applicants must be Jain, enrolled as students, pass written tests and personal interviews before getting selected.

The inaugural JYEP Program will take **twelve Jain Youths** (ages 18 - 25) from USA to India for approximately three weeks trip starting on **December 18th 2015** and finishing on **January 10, 2016**.

Students from USA will pay for all their international & travel within India, health insurance, pocket money to pay for incidental expenses, including if they were to pay for food outside, or to purchase souvenirs, etc.

Host Families (in India) would be responsible for local transportation, lodging, boarding, and food at home. The local Jain Center or Host families can sponsor any events, or cultural activity, or programs at their discretion.

In next two weeks the application forms, selection criterion, and relevant guidelines will be published. For more information, either please send e-mail at jyep@jaina.org or call Mr. Parth Savla, JAINA Manager, at (510) 730-0204.