

Jain Education in North America

!! Shri Ädeshvaräy Namah !!

!! Namö Jinänam !!

!! Jai Jinendra !!

Jain Education in North America

Mission: Instill spiritual development, self-awareness, moral consciousness, social well-being, and Jain identity in individuals, based on the principles of Jainism.

Vision:

1. Learn, understand, practice, teach and promote Pure (Mainstream) Jainism while respecting all Jain Traditions.
2. To have our next generation be recognized as proud “Jains” without any prefix of “Shwetāmbar” or “Digambar”.
3. Encourage and strengthen harmony and unity among all Jains of various traditions.
4. Bring all Jains together as it was under Lord Mahavir’s time – reverse the history of divisions.

Jain Education in North America

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

- JAINA EDUCATION COMMITTEE
- CONSISTS OF LEADING EDUCATORS OF NORTH AMERICA (N.A.)
- INVOLVE & WORK WITH ALL JAIN CENTERS OF N.A.
- INVOLVE ALL EDUCATORS & TEACHERS OF N.A.

Jain Education in North America

Objective:

- ❖ Bring happiness to our life through the proud heritage of Jainism
- ❖ Enhance our physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health while maintaining fundamental values of Jainism
- ❖ Adhere to the highest standards of ethics and integrity
- ❖ Create positive environment around teachers, students, volunteers, family members and friends
- ❖ Utilize latest scientific information where applicable

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Objective:

- ❖ JAINA education committee provides leadership role for educational activities in N.A.
- ❖ Develop & publish Jain Education tools including books for different levels - applicable to all ages from 3 years to adult using simple and understandable language in American English
- ❖ Emphasize on mainstream (pure) Jainism
- ❖ Use all available materials in all languages as reference in developing the Education tools for N.A.
- ❖ Develop & publish Curriculum for all levels
- ❖ Continuously improve Education material for simplicity, quality and consistency

Jain Education in North America

Objective:

- ❖ JAINA To organize pāthshālā convention every four years. Each Jain center should encourage their pāthshālā teachers & students to participate in the pāthshālā convention.
- ❖ Emphasize on 95% of Jainism which is common to all Jain tradition
- ❖ Education does not involve magic or blind faith
- ❖ Education must appeal to our common sense
- ❖ Practice must involve self-efforts and self-initiative
- ❖ Jainism must be explained with reasons
- ❖ No criticism of any Jain traditions

Jain Education in North America

Objective:

- ❖ Free from influence of any particular tradition or visiting scholar or monk.
- ❖ JAINA has setup a server for pāthshālā where all pāthshālā and related material is electronically available for use.
- ❖ E-mail discussion group for teachers is setup for posting questions, suggestions, comments, new articles, new games, ideas & experiences
- ❖ JAINA to develop teaching guide for teachers.

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Objective:

- ❖ JAINA to develop interactive electronic teaching material (text, audio and visual) through a web site, software, videos and/or by TV broadcast available (implement state-of-the-art technology).
- ❖ Each Jain Center should appoint an education committee with a qualified education coordinator who will be responsible for education activities of the center. This position is to be a non-political & non-elective position.

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Objective:

- ❖ Each Jain center, no matter what their size is, should have education as their top priority through pāthshālās, svādhyāyas, scholars, camps, seminars, conventions and essay competition
- ❖ Each Jain center should take special interest in training new teachers and enhancing teachers qualifications on a continuous basis. JAINA provides support as needed.
- ❖ Each Jain center involve youths in charity work projects, community harmony projects, health and welfare projects of the local community.

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Objective:

- ❖ Clearly and continuously understand, be totally responsive to, and strive to exceed students' expectations in our pāthshālā classes.
- ❖ Make continuous improvement in our teaching approaches. Attract new students, develop & motivate students to practice Jainism to the best of their ability
- ❖ JAINA to organize regional & national summer education camps for each & all level of students.
- ❖ Each center to develop youth teachers as they can better relate to the American born Jains.

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Objective:

- ❖ Each center to include two or more youths in their executive committees.
- ❖ Each center to have plan in place to develop new youth leaders through executive internship.
- ❖ Youth & adult classes to be conducted at the same time.
- ❖ JAINA to take action to make Jainism as a general education course at university level.
- ❖ JAINA to develop teachers training/education plan including developing qualified teacher trainers who train new teachers by regions/centers

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Things to do in Class in addition to Text Book (1/4)

- Prayers, Stuties, and Stavans
- Sutras (Memorization of Sutras necessary to Perform a Samayik)
 - Learn to Perform a Sämäyik
- Jain Philosophy
- Jain Rituals
 - Jin Pujä & processes involved in Temple
 - Jain Festivals and Celebrations
 - How to Perform Chaitya Vandan in Temple
- Observation of Jain Spiritual Days (e.g., Paryushana, Navpad Oli, Mahavir Janma Kalyänak, Nirvän day)

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Things to do in Class in addition to Text Book (2/4)

- Life Stories of Jain Tirthankaras
- Jain Stories & History of Great Jain Personalities
- History of Jainism
- Practice of Jainism in Daily Life
- Social Responsibilities
- Jainism and its interrelation With Ecology, Environment, and Bio-Diversity
- Games based on Jainism

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Things to do in Class in addition to Text Book (3/4)

- Projects
 - Arts Projects
 - Skit, Drama and Other Projects
 - Promoting Vegetarianism
 - Prevention of Animal Cruelty
- Semi-Annual or Annual Essay Competition
- Cultural programs
- Learning of Hindi, Gujarati & Devnagiri Script
- Volunteer work for JCNC Bhawan & activities
- Picnic, Camping

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Things to do in Class in addition to Text Book (4/4)

- Special Seminars
- Group outings - Bowling, Great America, etc.
- Yoga, Āsan
- Leadership Development
- Learning to help, accept mistakes, appreciating, listening
- Lessons Learned
- Continuous Improvement

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Ground Rules for pāthshālā Class (1/2)

- Create an environment that attracts youths
- Listen to everyone's ideas with an open mind, consider good ideas, give credit to the people whose good ideas are adopted. Do not reject any ideas right away.
- Create team atmosphere
- No interruptions or advise when a session is underway
- Inform fully & ahead of time, avoid surprises
- Put an extra effort to make everyone feel good

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Ground Rules for pāthshālā Class (2/2)

- Ask for or give feedback at the end of the class
- Follow up on negative feedback
- It's okay to acknowledge own mistakes
- Be on time
- Everyone participates, no one dominates
- No need to be forceful to express views
- No *word-smithing*

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Typical Structure of a Class

- Recitation of 3 Navakär Mahä Mantra
- Arahnato Bhagavant Indra, Mangalam Bhagavan Viro, Sarva Mangalam Mangalium
- Review of Previous Class & Home work
- Regular Class with interactive discussion
- Home Work Assignment
- Stavan
- Chattari Mangalam
- Khämemi Savva Jivva...

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Example of Textbook Topics (Level 4 Book) (1/3)

- Chapter 1: - Namaskär Mahä Mantra
- Chapter 2: - What Is Dharma (Religion)?
- Chapter 3. - Bhakti (Prayer)
- Chapter 4: - Universe, God, and Jainism
- Chapter 5 Ratna Trayi Moksha Marg (Three Fold Path of Liberation)
- Chapter 6: Samayktva (Right Perception and Faith)
- Chapter 7 - Twelve Vratas Of Shrävaks and Shrävikäs (Vows of a Laity)
- Chapter 8 - Five Ächär of Laity (Codes of Conduct of a Householder)
- Chapter 9 – Practicability of Ahinsä (Nonviolence)

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Example of Textbook Topics (Level 4 Book) (2/3)

- Chapter 10 – Kshamä, Vinay, Saralatä and Santosh (Four Virtues)
- Chapter 11 - Bhävanäs (Reflections or Contemplations)
- Chapter 12 - Shad Dravya (Six Universal Substances)
- Chapter 13. - Nav Tattva (Nine Fundamentals)
- Chapter 14. - Punya and Päp (Wholesome Karma and Unwholesome Karma)
- Chapter 15. - Äsrava and Bandh (Influx and Bondage of Karma)
- Chapter 16.- Samvar, Nirjarä, & Moksha (Prevention & Eradication of Karma & Liberation)
- Chapter 17. - Theory of Karma

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Example of Textbook Topics (Level 4 Book) (3/3)

- Chapter 18 - Ghāti Karma and Aghāti Karma
- Chapter 19 - What is Swādhyäy? (Study of Self)
- Chapter 20. - Dhyäna (Meditation)
- Chapter 21 - Fourteen Gunasthäna (Stages of Spiritual Development)
- Chapter 22: - Anekäntaväda (Theory of Multiplicity)
- Chapter 23 - Shad Sthänaks (Six Fundamental Truths)
- Chapter 24: - Jain History
- Chapter 25: - Jain Ägam Literature

This textbook is for high school and college students.

We have textbooks for the education of 3 year old to adult

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Pathashälä Rules (1/2)

- Make sure your youth is in the class on time. Have your youth arrive at least 5 minutes early to help the teacher. Your youth must be picked up on time. Suggest arriving by 5 minutes early in case you're not attending concurrent Adult Swädhyäya.
- We expect youths to take notes. Please make sure they have a notebook, folder (or binder) and pen/pencil with them.
- A written note is required from the parent/guardian in the event that your youth cannot attend the class. Consistent tardiness may result in suspension from the class.

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Pathashälä Rules (2/2)

- Each youth must do his/her homework in a timely manner and regularly. Each homework must be signed by at least one parent. Let your youth work on the homework independently as much as possible.
- Your youth must follow teacher's instructions and the class rules when in the class.
- We urge all parents to guide their children to choose clothes that is appropriate for a place of spiritual learning and exercise. The youth's attire should reflect the values we cherish and culture we want to retain and nurture.
- Parents should volunteer and participate actively as needed and encourage your youth to do some volunteer work.

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LEADERSHIP COVENANTS

- 1. Proactively support jain education goals through discussions, communications, and actions
- 2. Earn trust by accepting and honoring agreements, keeping promises, and discussing needed changes before acting.
- 3. Work jointly to resolve disagreements in good faith. If necessary, involve other leaders, key scholars and monks, then accept and support the solution.

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LEADERSHIP COVENANTS

- 4. Communicate early, honestly, and completely with all and listen to others' points of view.
- 5. Contribute constructively by exercising the highest level of Jainism
- 6. Promote continuous use of Mission/Vision/Objective goals & leadership covenants.