



Chinmaya Mission

Washington Regional Center, 46 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905
www.chinmayaDC.org

Bhiksha – a Seva

Just as the fire is the direct cause for cooking, so too without Direct Knowledge no emancipation can be had. Compared with all other forms of discipline, knowledge of the Self is the one direct means for liberation. One way to gain this knowledge is to be in the Satsang (company of learned people) like Swamiji. You can achieve this by offering bhiksha to Swamiji. This will be a special time for you and your family with Swamiji. Your children and guests will feel special to have Swamiji's undivided attention. It will be your quality time with Swamiji in a quiet setting. Besides, this is an opportunity to participate in Seva for Chinmaya Mission.

You may sign up for:

1. A particular day in a month (e.g. first Saturday of every month). If you chose this option, we will only call upon you once every month.
2. Any day in the fifth week in a month (not every month has five weeks). So, this will not be a monthly commitment.
3. Special occasions -- to mark any special event in your life such as birthdays, anniversaries etc.
4. Standby -- when a regular person can't make it for some reason (usually a very short notice, so we encourage members staying close to the Mission to sign up for this).

We seek volunteers for the following days of the week:

1. Monday lunch
2. Tuesday dinner in Maryland (only during the summer)
3. Wednesday dinner at 7:30 PM. If you choose this option, you have the pleasure of arranging Swamiji's bhiksha at your home.
4. Thursday dinner (after 9:00 PM-- Swamiji has a class on Thursdays which runs until 9:00 PM)
5. Friday dinner at 7:30 PM
6. Saturday lunch at 12:00 noon (for about 10 persons)
Saturday dinner at 7:30 PM
7. Sunday lunch at 12:00 noon (for about 10 persons)
Sunday dinner at 7:30 PM. If you choose this option, you have the pleasure of arranging Swamiji's bhiksha at your home.

What you need to do:

1. Sign up with Meera Ravichandran at 301-279-0434 once you have decided on a day/date.
2. Call Swamiji (301-384-1204) about 2-3 days beforehand to finalize the time and venue.
3. Please note that Swamiji can be persuaded to visit your home on Monday, Wednesday, and Sunday evenings. All other days, please offer bhiksha at Kailash Niwas.



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4. Please feel free to use the plates and cups at the center. However, ensure that after the Bhiksha, the place is tidied up.
5. If Swamiji is coming over, make arrangements for pick-up and drop off.
6. After reciting Brahmaarpanam, Swamiji and everyone present eat together.
7. If you are not able to bring bhiksha due to unforeseen circumstances, please make sure that either bhiksha is delivered to Kailash Niwas, or make alternate arrangements as simple as calling in a pizza to be delivered at Kailash Niwas. Calling bhiksha coordinator with a very short notice (even 2-3 days) may not be adequate for bhiksha coordinator to make alternate arrangements. In other words, please have a back up plan!

Optional:

If you wish to make a Guru dakshina, please make the check payable to: CMWRC and write "Bhiksha" on the memo.

What to cook?

Vegetarian food -- No eggplant, garlic, or naan (Indian bread) please :-)

For further questions or suggestions, please call Meera Ravichandran at 301-279-0434