



Frequently Asked Questions

Entry Form

Who is eligible to take part in TEEN OF THE YEAR 2011?

You should be an Indian citizen between 14 and 18 years of age as of August 1, 2011. You will be required to produce proof of age (Passport / Birth Certificate / School Leaving Certificate).

How do I participate?

All you need to do is fill out the Entry Form, attach a list of your achievements and send them to THE TEENAGER.

Where do I send my Entry Form?

Send it to THE TEENAGER, 58/23rd Road, TPS III, Bandra (West), Mumbai 400 050; Tel: 022-26557443.

Do I have to pay a registration fee?

Yes, you will have to send a registration fee of Rs 50/- by Mumbai Cheque or Demand Draft in favour of THE TEENAGER, Mumbai along with your Entry Form.

Do I need to attach any documents along with the Entry Form?

No. At the moment, you need to send only a list of your achievements, etc. as given in the form.

Is a photograph necessary?

Yes. Your entry form should have your recent 5 cm x 5 cm photograph pasted on the form in the space provided.

What is the last date for sending in my entry?

Your completed Entry Form should reach us at THE TEENAGER latest by **August 15, 2011**. Forms sent via e-mail will not be accepted or considered.

If I have participated earlier, am I still eligible to participate?

Unfortunately, participation is allowed only once. Those who participated in any of the previous TEEN OF THE YEAR zonals or finals are not eligible to take part.

What happens after I submit my Entry Form?

Your Entry Form will be evaluated for its completeness in all respects, so make sure you list all the Certificates of Merit and Achievement that we've asked for. If you are shortlisted, you will be contacted and notified about the next step.

My friend wants to participate in TEEN OF THE YEAR but does not have a form.

Entry Forms will be distributed at schools/colleges across India so you can contact your principal for a form. Forms will also be available on www.teenoftheyear.in. If you do not have access to the internet, call us on 022-26557443 and we'll be happy to send you one.

Selection Procedure

What is the selection procedure?

All Entry Forms are evaluated by a specially chosen panel of judges — individuals who are leaders in their chosen fields and those who have worked with the youth in some capacity.

Level 1: Entry Forms and list of achievements will be evaluated for their correctness and completeness in all respects and participants will be shortlisted based on pre-defined criteria.

Level 2: Eligible applicants from each region (North, South, Central, East, West) will be shortlisted for Level 2. Shortlisted participants will be asked to send in the draft of a workable project based on the event theme along with responses to a detailed questionnaire on the theme. They will also have to submit photocopies of their certificates and awards received (from Class 7 onwards) attested by the school/college principal.

PRE-ZONAL: 30 applicants from each of the pre-zonals will be shortlisted to participate at the pre-zonal events.

ZONAL: The regional zonal will consist of 20-25 participants selected from the pre-zonals of the respective region. They will be asked to send in more details about their project. The day-long zonal includes a personal interview, group dynamics session and talent showcase.

TEEN WEEK: 3-4 finalists will be selected from each zonal and invited to Teen Week. They will be asked to further work on their projects in the run-up to the finals.

What is Teen Week?

Teen Week is the finale of TEEN OF THE YEAR 2011 and will be held from November 8th to 12th, 2011. During Teen Week, finalists live together and are given a unique opportunity to interact with their peers from all over the country.

Teen Week includes a series of activities like on-site and outdoor workshops, group dynamics, quizzes, personal interactions etc.

The event culminates in a grand finale at St Andrew's Auditorium, Bandra (West), Mumbai at which the titleholders are announced.

Can I be disqualified at the entry level itself?

Yes. If you provide incomplete information or do not fill the entry form as per the rules, you will be disqualified.

If I am not selected, will you return the documents I submit?

No documents will be returned, which is why we insist that you send us ONLY attested PHOTOCOPIES.

Pre-Zonals, Zonals & Finals

When and where will the zonals be held?

*PRE-ZONALS: **North:** Jaipur, Agra, Delhi; **Central:** Indore, Rajkot; **West:** Mumbai, Pune, Goa, Nashik; **East:** Guwahati, Shillong, Jorhat, Kolkata, Siliguri, Darjeeling; **South:** Bangalore, Chennai, Coimbatore, Kochi, Hyderabad.

* Pre-zonal places may be merged/cancelled depending on the number of entry forms received.

ZONALS: Bangalore, Mumbai, Indore, Jaipur and Guwahati.

FINALS will be held in Mumbai.

Dates and venues for pre-zonals and zonals will be announced in the August 2011 issue of THE TEENAGER and on the TEEN OF THE YEAR website.

What if no zonal centre is accessible to me? Or I am unable to travel to the city where the zonal is being held?

In such an event, only 2 participants nationwide (residing in far-flung or inaccessible areas and keen to participate), may be selected directly for Teen Week, only if found to have enough merit combined with an exceptional résumé. However, the Selection Committee appointed by THE TEENAGER will enjoy total discretion and their decision will be treated as final. No disputes will be entertained nor will any reasons offered thereafter.

Will I have to pay for my travel and stay at the zonals and finals?

Yes, you will be expected to bear your travel expenses for the zonals and Teen Week. The zonals will be a daylong event, and refreshments will be provided. If you make it to Teen Week, THE TEENAGER will be responsible for your food and accommodation during your stay in Mumbai.

Can I bring a parent or chaperone with me?

Yes. However, THE TEENAGER will not be responsible for their food and accommodation. We will make arrangements to pick you up and drop you from your arrival and departure points in Mumbai, if you inform us in advance.

Prizes

1. At the finale in Mumbai, after evaluating the overall performance of each participant over a 5-day period, 3 participants who meet the evaluation panel's selection criteria, will be declared TEEN OF THE YEAR 2011, First Runner-up TEEN OF THE YEAR 2011 and Second Runner-up TEEN OF THE YEAR 2011, respectively.

2. All 3 winners will receive a specially designed TEEN OF THE YEAR 2011 trophy and cash prizes.

3. Special Awards will also be given out to 4 deserving participants while the most innovative, practical and sustainable project will receive a cash prize.

4. Finalists will receive a memento of TEEN OF THE YEAR 2011, certificate of participation and other gifts and prizes.

5. Zonal participants will receive certificates of participation and mementos of TEEN OF THE YEAR 2011 as well as special goodie bags.

6. All participants, even those who do not qualify for the zonals, will receive a FREE two month subscription to THE TEENAGER from the October 2011 issue.

About the Event

What is TEEN OF THE YEAR?

TEEN OF THE YEAR is an event with a mission — to empower you to let your inner light shine, make a difference to the world and give back to society in your own way. Held annually, TEEN OF THE YEAR provides teens with a national platform to express themselves and give voice to their inner light — a means to translate their expression into action. While most other events lay emphasis on physical appearance or academic excellence or individual talent, TEEN OF THE YEAR is rooted in the philosophy that what really counts is strength of character, inner beauty and a desire to give back to society. You don't have to be a celebrity to become a role model. You may be an ordinary teenager. That's why TEEN OF THE YEAR is the perfect event for you the youth — the future of India.

When did TEEN OF THE YEAR begin?

TEEN OF THE YEAR was launched in 1996 in Mumbai.

Who organizes TEEN OF THE YEAR?

TEEN OF THE YEAR is organized every year by THE TEENAGER, India's only TeenZine and the most widely read Indian teen publication. Through its 48 years of existence, THE TEENAGER has been a friend to Indian teens, their premier resource for all kinds of information and practical advice.

Where is TEEN OF THE YEAR held?

Pre-zonal and zonal events for TEEN OF THE YEAR are held at different cities across the country culminating in a grand finale in Mumbai.

What are you looking for in a TEEN OF THE YEAR?

Do you care for others? Are you a sensitive person? Are you aware of the issues facing your society and nation? Are you a young, thinking Indian in the making? If yes, you could be the TEEN OF THE YEAR.

What is sought in TEEN OF THE YEAR participants are leadership qualities, an eagerness to reach out with respect and humaneness. He/she does not merely pay lip service, but actually lives by his/her values.

What will TEEN OF THE YEAR do for you?

For every teen who participates, TEEN OF THE YEAR is a journey of self-discovery — finding that 'extra something' in you that you may not be aware of — the light within which gets a platform to shine for others to see. With teens from across the nation participating, TEEN OF THE YEAR forges lifelong friendships. Once you participate, you become an integral part of this ever-growing movement.

What is the theme of the event?

In addition to giving an opportunity to teens across the country to come together TEEN OF THE YEAR offers you a relevant theme to discuss and study at length and to arrive at some practical guidelines in changing the face of the nation in your own small way. Since 2010, **Teens for a socially conscious India** becomes an overarching theme for the next five years, with a special focus this year on 'Save Energy'.

What is 'Let your light shine'?

'Let your light shine' is an invitation to discover your true self, your inner qualities so that you become a guiding light for others.

Who are volunteers? Can I become one?

TEEN OF THE YEAR has a dedicated team of volunteers made up of former participants and supporters. But we're always looking for fresh faces to work with the organizing team. Just log onto our website www.teenoftheyear.in for more details.

teenoftheyear.in