



Chintha Kathiresan
Avonworth High School, Grade 12

2021 *Girl Scout of Distinction*

Chintha planned and designed a pre-kindergarten craft and activity book for her Sunday School, Chinmaya Mission Pittsburgh. As a student that has been attending Chinmaya Mission Pittsburgh since first grade, Chintha was overjoyed to give back to an organization that has equipped her with essential values, taught her more about the Hindu religion, and has given her a second family. She created a supplemental book that has ample amounts of age-related crafts and activities and step-by-step instructions that correspond to the lesson plan from the class curriculum for each week. With this book, Chintha hopes to enhance the classroom experience for the little ones and make the pre-kindergarten teachers' planning easier. In addition to being available for the three Chinmaya Mission Pittsburgh centers, the book is also available as a resource on the Chinmaya Mission Teachers Portal for centers across North America.

One of Chintha's most memorable experiences as a Girl Scout was participating in World Thinking Day where she taught Tamil (an Indian language) to younger Girl Scouts. She also enjoyed making and serving food with her Girl Scout troop at a local homeless shelter and creating a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) video with two other Girl Scouts to encourage more girls to pursue the STEM field.

Chintha is also the clarinet section leader for her school's marching band, a ROX mentor for fifth- and sixth-grade girls at her school, and vice president of Key Club. In the future, Chintha aspires to get a degree in biology or the biological sciences and pursue medical school.

Chintha thanks her Girl Scout troop leaders Brenda Mellon and Melanie Holcomb, the Chinmaya Mission Pittsburgh administration, and pre-kindergarten teachers for their encouragement throughout this process. She is also grateful to Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania for honoring her with this distinction. Lastly, she thanks her mom for nominating her for this award and for being a pillar of support for her.

