

RADIANT STARS

Getting to know kids who shine

Connect with kids around the world! How are they like you? How are they different? Each of us has a unique story to tell. What's yours?

Samantha S.

Age: 14

I live in: **Massachusetts, U.S.**

I want to be: **Maybe a pediatric orthodontist . . .**

This career interests me because: **I like helping people. When I was younger I had to get some things done to my teeth and my dentist was very kind . . .**

Virtue I admire most: **Kindness**

Favorite pet: **Suri, my dog**



Favorite food: **I love the Persian stews my Mom makes.**

Hobbies or sports: **Reading, acting, playing [the] flute, hiking**

A hero or role model: **I see all my relatives as role models. They've gone through really hard times to get to the life they have now . . .**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **I love my Sunday School!**

What gives me hope: **My family and friends . . . Also my social studies class—so many things went wrong in history, and we were able to learn lessons from those events . . . If people then could get past these large barriers, so can we!**

Thomas S.

Age: 12

I live in: **South Carolina, U.S.**

I want to be: **Businessman**

This career interests me because: **I am good with money and always had an interest in different types of businesses . . .**

Virtue I admire most: **Patience**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Helping teach children's classes and participating in junior youth [groups]**

A hero or role model: **My dad**

I am grateful for: **Going to school . . .**

Hobbies or sports: **Soccer**



Place I'd love to visit: **Netherlands**

To be a world citizen means:

Everyone is equal, and no matter who they are, they are a person just like yourself.

What gives me hope: **Later on in the world, there will be peace and world unity.**

If I could volunteer anywhere: **I would go to . . . the [Bahá'í World Centre] in Israel . . . so I can help create the beautiful gardens there . . .**



Aspen S.

Age: 12

I live in: **Texas, U.S.**

I want to be: **Something most likely having to do with the outdoors.**

This career interests me because: **I love camping and hiking.**

Virtue I admire most: **Forgiveness, because we can never accept the past and work towards a better future if we do not learn how to forgive.**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Junior youth group**

A hero or role model: **Malala Yousafzai**

A favorite animal: **I like okapis and capybaras.**

I am grateful for: **A free education, because not everyone in the world has that chance.**

To be a world citizen means: **Having an open mind about all cultures and religions . . . also . . . helping the world in any way you can.**

What gives me hope: **I remind myself that God has a plan . . . also . . . that the world may seem bad, but happiness can still be found within it.**

Ella Z.

Age: 11

I live in: **California, U.S.**

I want to be: **A doctor**

This career interests me because:

I would like to help heal people.

Virtue I admire most: **Kindness**

Hobbies or sports: **Gymnastics, DIY's**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Fundraisers**

A hero or role model: **Malala Yousafzai**

I like to help people by: **Donating to nonprofits**

When a friend feels down: **[I] try talking to her and . . . help her focus on the good things in her life.**

Place I'd love to visit: **London**

Favorite animal or pet: **My dogs**

If I could time-travel, I'd want to see:

How technology has changed

If I could volunteer anywhere:

I would go to Haifa [Israel] and serve at the Bahá'í shrines.

What helps me feel close to God:

Saying prayers and reading [Bahá'í] writings



“God has crowned you with honor and in your hearts has He set a radiant star; verily the light thereof shall brighten the whole world!” — ‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Lila P.

Age: 12

I live in: **Washington, U.S.**

I want to be:

Author, chef, actress, game developer, LEGO Master [Model] Builder

This career interests me because:

I have many interests and want to try them all!

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **[Junior youth] groups and singing and playing guitar at holy days and Feasts**

A favorite food: **Tofu Banh Mi**

What gives me hope: **The knowledge that things can change, there are people helping make that change, and that I can be one [of] them.**

Favorite animal or pet: **I love foxes and raccoons.**



Virtue I admire most: **Flexibility and kindness**

To be a world citizen means: **I think it is best said in the following quote: “to love all the [world]; to love humanity and try to serve it; to work for universal peace and universal brotherhood.”****

What helps me feel close to God:

I witness everyday miracles around me in nature, and when I pray I feel that my prayers are answered even [if] it's not answered in the way I thought it would turn out.

Theo N.

Age: 10

I live in: **Virginia, U.S.**

I want to be:

LEGO [model] designer

This career interests me because:

I love LEGO [bricks]

Virtue I admire most: **Kindness**

Hobbies or sports: **Reading, LEGO [bricks], and soccer**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Ayyám-i-Há***

Favorite animal or pet: **Cats and my guinea pig**

Place I'd love to visit: **Africa**

I like to help people by: **Making them laugh**

A hero or role model: **'Abdu'l-Bahá**

A favorite food: **Ketchup**

I am grateful for: **Walking**

When a friend feels down: **[I] make them laugh.**

What gives me hope: **Praying**

If I could time-travel, I'd want to see:

How many Bahá'ís there are

If I could volunteer anywhere: **I would go to Africa and teach the [Bahá'í] Faith.**



How to be a Radiant Star:

1. If you're age 7-14, go to www.brilliantstarmagazine.org. From the top menu, choose "Discover." Then click "Become a Radiant Star or Trailblazer," and fill out the form. Or e-mail us at brilliant@usbnc.org. Include your name, age, birth date, mailing address, and phone number.
2. When it's your turn to shine, we'll send you questions and a form for you and your parents to sign.
3. Answer the questions and send them to us with the signed form, along with at least two good-quality, close-up photographs of your smiling face. Photos should be in sharp focus and show your eyes clearly. Please don't send color copies, low-resolution digital images, or copyright-protected images (like school portraits).

*Ayyám-i-Há is a festival of hospitality, charity, gift giving, and preparing for the Bahá'í Fast.
**Definition of a Bahá'í from 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Hannah M.

Age: **11**

I live in: **North Carolina, U.S.**

I want to be: **A singer**

This career interests me because: **I am always singing or humming.**

Virtue I admire most: **Integrity**

Hobbies or sports: **Playing basketball and read[ing]**

I like to help people by: **When I see someone is sad, I tell them life will get better soon, so put this day aside . . .**

A hero or role model: **My great-grandmother Bahi—she is the best, she loves everybody. She has experienced life challenges in Iran and knows so much about it.**

I am grateful for: **My family, because they love me and I love them so much.**

To be a world citizen means: **To be responsible to make the world a better place each day**

What gives me hope: **I think someday we all [will] become better people . . .**

If I could time-travel, I'd want to see: **[That] all the world is beautiful and people are happy and love each other**



Ivan P.

Age: **10**

I live in: **Texas, U.S.**

I want to be: **Egyptologist**

This career interests me because: **Ancient Egypt is cool, and I might as well have my year of service at a dig site while I'm at it.**

Virtue I admire most: **Empathy**

Hobbies or sports: **Karate, X-Wing (game), LEGO [bricks]**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Planning holy days. I was on the Naw-Rúz* planning committee in my community, which I really enjoyed.**

What gives me hope: **The fact that I have friends**



A hero or role model: **My teacher, Ms. Jorgenson**

To be a world citizen means: **Believing that prejudice of any sort is an affront to humanity.**

If I could time-travel, I'd want to see: **Whether or not they had discovered any cryptids (Bigfoot, Loch Ness Monster, etc).**

What helps me feel close to God: **For me, the spiritual ingredient to life that makes me feel close to God is laughter.**

Joshua V.

Age: **9**

I live in: **California, U.S.**

I want to be: **Jail commander or engineer**

This career interests me because: **My papa works as a jail command[er] and it seems fun. I would like to be an engineer because I love to build.**

Virtue I admire most: **Generosity**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Feast** and children's classes**

A hero or role model: **My sister**

Favorite animal or pet: **The wolf and . . . my dog, Pearl**

I like to help people by: **Doing community service such as Earth clean-up**

If I could time-travel, I'd want to see: **What happens . . . when a new Messenger of God comes . . .**

If I could volunteer anywhere: **I would go to Somalia and . . . give out food and water.**

What helps me feel close to God: **Talking to Him through prayer. I know God exists because Bahá'u'lláh . . . talked to us about God.**



Soraya M.

Age: **10**

I live in: **Washington, D.C.**

I want to be: **Genetic biologist**

This career interests me because: **I am interested in finding a new species.**

Virtues I admire most: **Creativity and humor**

Hobbies or sports: **Soccer, art, dancing, reading, climbing**

Favorite animal or pet: **My favorite animal is a polar bear, and I love my dog, Trixy!**

I am grateful for: **Being able to live in a clean house with running water and food. Also getting to go to school and . . . having a loving family that can keep me healthy.**



I like to help people by: **Doing service projects like trash pick-ups and soup kitchens.**

To be a world citizen means: **You need to help the world in some way, because why would God put you on Earth if you did not have a purpose?**

What gives me hope: **Knowing that I am with my family and that they will protect me.**

If I could time-travel, I'd want to see: **What [life] choices I made**

*Naw-Rúz is the Bahá'í New Year and a holy day.

**Feast is a Bahá'í community gathering with prayers, consultation, and fellowship.