

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?

Maya G.

Age: 13

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

I want to be:
An advocate for children who are in harmful situations

This career interests me because:
I have a passion for helping people who can't protect themselves.

Virtues I admire most:
Honesty and kindness

Hobbies or sports:
I like to write poetry, and I like to sing.



Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Junior youth group and local devotionals*

A hero or role model:
[Bábí martyr] Táhirih and Malala Yousafzai

When someone asks about the Bahá'í Faith, I say:
It's a world religion that teaches that all of humanity should live in unity.

If someone isn't sure there is a God, I'd say:
Investigate with an open mind and see for [yourself].

I like to pray:
When I am alone in my room or when I'm at a devotional and we are all sharing prayers

When I feel worried or sad:
I can pray and talk to God. If I need advice, then I can ask Him for it.

Kavi S.

Age: 12

I live in:
Massachusetts, U.S.

I want to be: **Lawyer**

This career interests me because:
[I] can help protect innocent people and support justice in our communities.

Virtue I admire most:
Trustworthiness

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Junior youth classes

A hero or role model:
[Argentine soccer player] Lionel Messi

If I could ask God a question, I'd ask:
When is the next Prophet going to come? ... I want to see how many years it takes to develop a Prophet.



I like to pray:
In 'Abdu'l-Bahá's room at Green Acre [Bahá'í School in Maine, U.S.] because it helps me feel a connection with God

When someone asks about the Bahá'í Faith, I say:
The Bahá'í Faith is a religion that believes in the oneness of humanity.

When I feel worried or sad:
I remember how all the Prophets had to go through much harder times and that They got through it.



Amin F.

Age: 11

I live in:
Western Australia

I want to be: **Astronaut**

This career interests me because:
I love space and the universe.

Virtue I admire most:
Justice

Hobbies or sports:
Minecraft, hockey, and designing planes and spaceships

Places I'd love to visit:
London and Singapore

I like to pray:
In the mornings ...

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Junior youth [group] and Feast**

A hero or role model:
In Bahá'í history, my hero and role model is Mullá Husayn, because of his bravery ...

If I could ask God a question, I'd ask:
When and where the next Manifestation of God will appear ...

If someone isn't sure there is a God, I'd say:
That the only logical answer to the universe and everything is God

To help religions get along in peace, I'd:
Explain that all the Manifestations of God came from the same source, and that is God

*Devotionals are gatherings for sharing prayers, holy writings, and music.

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

Diba M.

Age: 11

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

I want to be:
Chemical engineer

This career interests me because:
It's a career that can help change the world and improve the quality of life for people.

Virtue I admire most:
Trustworthiness

Hobbies or sports:
Drawing, dancing, singing, and swimming

A hero or role model:
My parents

If someone isn't sure there is a God, I'd say:
I'd ask them to share their feelings and thoughts. I'd listen to them and respect their decision to believe in what they want.

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Children's classes and Feast

To help religions get along in peace:
I think respect is very important. People from different religions and faiths need to first respect each other and then try to participate in each other's religions so they can have a better understanding of one another.

I like to pray:
In bed, every night before I go to sleep



"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

Kian S.

Age: 12

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

I want to be:
A soccer player . . . [and] an architectural engineer

This career interests me because:
I have always liked to play soccer . . . and enjoy the idea of using technology to design houses and buildings . . .

Virtue I admire most:
When people are kind . . .

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Service projects with my [junior youth] group and helping out at shelters

A hero or role model:
My dad and my mom

To help religions get along in peace, I'd:
Find a way to include all their ideas and thoughts, so they all have a word in the decisions made



If someone isn't sure there is a God, I'd say:
That God is there and exists. He is just there in a different way for everyone.

When someone asks about the Bahá'í Faith, I say:
We support everyone and want to make the world a better place. We love everyone and appreciate [service for] others.

When I feel worried or sad:
[My faith] reminds me that I am not alone . . . I have my friends and family to support me and say prayers . . . When I say prayers . . . they make me feel a lot better.

Rachel D.

Age: 10

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

I want to be: **An architect**

This career interests me because:
I love designing houses and floor plans.

Virtues I admire most:
Sincerity and honesty

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Children's classes and Bahá'í holidays

If someone isn't sure there is a God, I'd say:
God is our Creator. Without Him, we wouldn't be here.

To help religions get along in peace, I'd:
Tell people it's okay to have different beliefs, but we shouldn't fight over it

A hero or role model:
I look up to my parents as my role models.

When someone asks about the Bahá'í Faith, I say:
[It's] a religion where we believe in all religions. Bahá'u'lláh is our Manifestation of God.

When I feel worried or sad:
[It helps me to] think about 'Abdu'l-Bahá's quote . . . "I want you to be happy . . . to laugh, smile and rejoice in order that others may be made happy by you."



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).

Kensho B.

Age: **11**

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

I want to be: **Chef**

This career interests me because:

I love cooking.

Virtue I admire most:

Kindness

Hobbies or sports:

Art, drawing, RPGs [role-playing games], video games, hiking, camping, cooking

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

Praying at the Temple*

To help religions get along in peace, I'd:

Ask them to team up and clean the oceans of all the trash, and maybe they would become friends by working together on that

A favorite food: **Sushi**

If I could ask God a question, I'd ask:

Can I see my grandpas again someday?

If someone isn't sure there is a God, I'd say:

It's up to them to see God in their heart.

When someone asks about the Bahá'í Faith, I say:

It's a way of life that recognizes the unity of mankind and the beauty of Earth.

When I feel worried or sad:

I feel better when I pray to God.



Shiraz T.

Age: **10**

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

I want to be: **A doctor**

This career interests me because:

I want to help people get better if they are sick. My mom is also a doctor.

Virtues I admire most:

Cleanliness and kindness

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

Children's classes

A hero or role model:

My parents . . . they are kind and loving, and they love to help people.

If someone isn't sure there is a God, I'd say:

There is a God, because I feel God whenever I say prayers. I feel love and closeness to Him . . .



If I could ask God a question, I'd ask:

What it looked like before our universe was created

I like to pray:

In my room alone. The quiet helps me to concentrate, and there is nothing to distract me.

When someone asks about the Bahá'í Faith, I say:

The Bahá'í Faith is a world religion for today. And Bahá'u'lláh is the Messenger of God for today. He came to teach everyone about peace and oneness of religion.

Yasmine A.

Age: **10**

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

I want to be: **A teacher**

This career interests me because:

I like helping younger kids learn.

Hobbies or sports:

Gymnastics, art, travel, service, and [family time]

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

Children's class

Virtue I admire most:

Truthfulness

A hero or role model:

Mommy

Place I'd love to visit:

I just went—pilgrimage in the Holy Land [Israel]

If I could ask God a question, I'd ask:

About my future—I always wonder about it

If someone isn't sure there is a God, I'd say:

Your choice, but the world would be chaos without His teachings.

To help religions get along in peace, I'd:

Teach people about Bahá'u'lláh

I like to pray:

On the way to school in the mornings and in my room with my family at night

When I feel worried or sad:

[My faith] has given me a prayer book I can use.



Anis-Nur A.

Age: **7**

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

I want to be: **A doctor**

This career interests me because:

I like to help people and those kids in the orphanage that I was at in Democratic Republic of Congo before I was adopted by my parents.

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

Making a handprint and writing all the Bahá'í virtues [in] each finger

Place I'd love to visit:

Iran, where my mother was born

A hero or role model:

My mom

When I feel worried or sad:

I keep saying that it is okay and God is here.

Favorite animal: **Lion**



If I could ask God a question, I'd ask:

How humans are made

If someone isn't sure there is a God, I'd say:

Come with us to the Bahá'í Center to learn more about God.

To help religions get along in peace, I'd:

Make sure that everybody gets treated the same way, no matter what race or religion they are

I like to pray:

In my bed at night before I go to sleep