

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?

Roham Y.

Age: **12**

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

I want to be: **Engineer**

This career interests me because: **I like to put things together and build many things.**

Virtue I admire most: **Honesty**

Hobbies or sports: **Basketball, swimming, piano, and violin**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Devotionals* and junior youth classes**



A hero or role model: **Mom and Dad**

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

A favorite food: **Sushi**

It's important to have friends from different cultures because: **You can learn about their cultures and their religions to gain a better understanding of where people come from.**

When I feel sad about disunity or injustice, I: **Hope that I have a chance to make a positive impact through my actions**

If I were a world leader, to stop prejudice and racism: **I would make a law that you couldn't be racist and encourage people to do the right thing.**

Maya P.

Age: **13**

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

I want to be: **Professional ballerina**

This career interests me because: **Dancing has always been my passion, and I love the feeling of dancing . . . to make people happy. I feel as if I am doing a service . . .**

Virtue I admire most: **Justice**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Helping teach children's classes**

A hero or role model: **Rosa Parks**

I like to help people by: **[Making] sure to listen to how my friends are feeling so that I can help them feel better . . .**



When my friends are bullied or excluded, I: **Always try to help them see that these people just don't know what they're talking about, and that there will always be people that try to put you down.**

When I feel sad about disunity or injustice: **I always feel hopeful when I am helping [to] teach children's classes, because I feel like I am helping to conquer disunity by teaching . . . kids virtues that really change them . . . We are creating unity.**



Apraih E.

Age: **10**

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

I want to be: **A surgeon**

This career interests me because: **The human body is fascinating to me.**

Virtue I admire most: **Kindness**

Hobbies or sports: **Practicing show tunes and comedy**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Learning the history of the Faith**

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

A hero or role model: **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

It's important to have friends from different cultures because: **It helps you understand that stereotypes about different kinds of people are not true.**

When I was excluded because of my race, I: **Just ignored it**

When I feel sad about disunity or injustice, I: **Like to look for stories about people who were denied justice finally getting justice**

If I were a world leader, to stop prejudice and racism: **There are a lot of things that need to be done, but the first thing I would probably do is create more programs to help people of color get out of poverty.**

Milo B.

Age: 9

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

I want to be: **A zookeeper**

This career interests me because:

I love animals.

Hobbies or sports:

Soccer, basketball, and breakdancing

Virtue I admire most:

Kindness

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

Celebrating Ayyám-i-Há* with my community

Place I'd love to visit:

The Shrine of the Báb [in Haifa, Israel]

It's important to have friends from different cultures because:

You can meet new people, have fun together, and communicate better.

A hero or role model: **My uncle Sepehr. He's so kind and honest, and he helps a lot of people.**

When I feel sad about disunity or injustice:

It gives me hope to imagine communities in the future who don't have racism.

If I were a world leader, to stop prejudice and racism: **If I saw somebody being racist, I'd immediately stop it. I would tell people to stop fighting and to live next to people of all races.**



Maya A.

Age: 10

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

I want to be: **A teacher**

This career interests me because:

I like helping . . . younger people.

Virtue I admire most:

Empathy

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

Children's class

Place I'd love to visit:

Shrine of 'Abdu'l-Bahá

A hero or role model:

Ayoub (Hájí Muhammad Taqiy-i Nayrizi)[†]

When I feel sad about disunity or injustice, I:

Think that now that there is consultation, we can talk together and find a way for there to be unity

It's important to have friends from different cultures because: **You have different experiences from around the world, and it is good to learn about their differences [and] have more understanding.**

To help build unity in my community:

We invited all of our neighbors over for a dinner party called "meaningful talkos" [tacos] night. We had meaningful conversations . . .



"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

Clovy R.

Age: 11

I live in: **Maine, U.S., right near Green Acre Bahá'í School!**

I want to be:

Teacher or neurologist

This career interests me because:

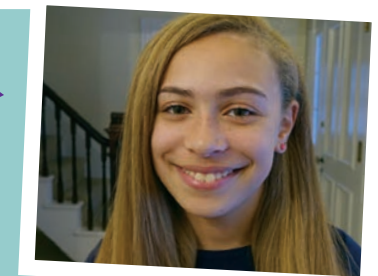
A teacher because I want to be able to help and encourage people my age and younger to learn. A neurologist because I want to figure out how we can use more than 10% of our brains.

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

Junior youth group and hosting Feast!**

If I could invent an ice cream flavor to celebrate diversity:

[It] would be vanilla with a dark chocolate and caramel center, because of the quote in the writings that refers to people of color as the "pupil of the eye." It would be called Oneness.



A favorite food:

My Grandpa's mac and cheese!

Places I'd love to visit:

Haifa [Israel] and Hawaii

When I was bullied or excluded:

I haven't been . . . probably because . . . some people may not be able to tell that I have African American heritage.

When I feel sad about disunity or injustice:

I think about all the Bahá'ís in the world [who are] working to serve humanity and . . . praying or working to teach the 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 email us at brilliant@usbnc.org. Include your name, age, birthdate, 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, gift giving, and preparing for the Bahá'í Fast.

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

† Ayoub was a Bábí and then a Bahá'í. He bravely faced persecution.

Nabil Z.

Age: 8

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

I want to be: **Pilot**

This career interests me because:

I can take people from one place to another, and I get to explore the sky.

Virtue I admire most: **Patience**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Children's class**

Hobbies or sports: **Soccer**

Favorite animal: **Black panther**

It's important to have friends from different cultures because:

Friends from different cultures and ethnicities have different talents and abilities . . . and I can learn from them.

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

When I feel sad about disunity or injustice, I:

Stay positive by remembering Bahá'u'lláh's words ("Ye are the fruits of one tree and the leaves of one branch") and by saying prayers for unity

If I were a world leader, to stop prejudice and racism: **I would make sure that all children could have an education, regardless of their nationality, ethnicity, or religion.**



Emma E.

Age: 10

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

I want to be: **An inventor**

This career interests me because:

I like making things that are useful and can help solve problems.

A hero or role model:

My cousin Alivia is a hero to me. She was diagnosed with a rare type of cancer and she's not only very brave, but always happy and positive while doing chemo and working on healing.

When I feel sad about disunity or injustice, what helps me stay positive is:

The Bahá'í Faith, because I know that slowly it is making [the world] better . . .



Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Children's class and prayer gatherings**

To help build unity in my community:

We pray with friends and neighbors of all backgrounds and religions.

If I could invent an ice cream flavor to celebrate diversity:

The ice cream will be shaped as a globe and inside there'll be many flavors and colors, all covered in chocolate, and when you cut it, you can see we're all part of one family or planet.

Laila P.

Age: 9

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

I want to be: **An author**

This career interests me because:

I really love to write, and this career lets me pour out all my thoughts and ideas onto paper.

Virtue I admire most: **Honesty**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Children's classes**

When I feel sad about disunity or injustice, I:

Think about ways to stop it

A hero or role model:

Mona Mahmudnizhad*

I like to help people by:

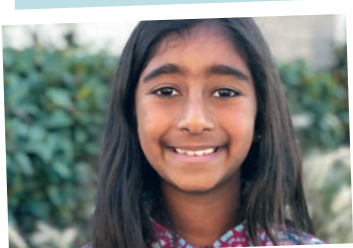
Standing up for them, carrying things that they can't hold, and holding the door . . .

It's important to have friends from different cultures because:

It's important to include them in everything and to let them feel that they are the same as everybody else, which they are, even if people tell them otherwise. Also, it [is] interesting to learn things about different cultures and ethnicities.

If I were a world leader, to stop prejudice and racism:

I'd give a speech about why everyone should be treated equally.



Aakhil C.

Age: 7

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

I want to be: **Engineer or architect**

This career interests me because:

I want to work for [the] Volvo Car Corporation factory.

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

When I feel sad about disunity or injustice, what helps me stay positive is:

Knowing that there are many kind people in the world who want to do good things for others . . .

To help build unity in my community:

We invite people in our neighborhood to . . . events that we like to have [at] our house . . .



A hero or role model: **My brother, Tiernan****

If I were a world leader, to stop prejudice and racism:

I would create a law where people must have neighborhood gatherings that help people of different races and cultures know each other better.

If I could invent an ice cream flavor to celebrate diversity, it would be:

Dough-vercity. It would taste like national fruits from different parts of the world.