



Vayuputra in Windy City

Frequently Asked Questions

Information Guide



Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav · July 11, 2026 · DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL

1. Event Basics

Q: What is Vayuputra in Windy City?

A: Vayuputra in Windy City is a historic Hanuman Chalisa Havan organized by Chinmaya Mission Chicago as part of Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav, celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Chinmaya Mission worldwide. The event features 21 rounds of collective Hanuman Chalisa chanting, a live grand Havan, cultural programs, family mela activities, an exhibition space, and vibrant food stalls.

Q: Is the event free to attend?

A: Yes, general admission is completely free and open to all. Registration is required for all attendees so we can plan effectively for the large crowd.

Q: Who can attend?

A: Everyone is welcome regardless of faith, background, or age. This is a universal family gathering open to the entire community.

Event Schedule Overview

Time	Program Activity
8:00 AM	General Registration Desk opens (Building 1 Main Gate)
8:30 AM	Havan Area Check-In opens (Building 2)
9:00 AM	Live Grand Havan Core Rituals begin
10:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Children's Mela Activities & Games (Indoor/Outdoor Building 1)
10:00 AM onwards	Exhibits, Vendor Booths
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Grand Cultural Program (Main Stage, Building 1)

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Food Stalls open

2. Registration & Check-In

Q: Do I need to register in advance?

A: Yes, all attendees must register, including cultural performers, chant participants, Bala Vihar children, and volunteers. Walk-ins are welcome and can easily register at the desk on-site upon arrival, but advance registration is highly recommended to avoid lines.



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Q: How do I check in?

A: Once you arrive, present your ticket QR code to the check-in team near the Building 1 main gate to collect your entry wristbands. Check-in is fully active from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

IMPORTANT TIP: With over 3,000 expected attendees, local cellular networks can sometimes slow down on-site. We highly **recommend taking a clean screenshot of your ticket QR code on your mobile phone before you arrive at the fairgrounds.** This ensures the check-in team can scan your code instantly at the gate without waiting for an email to load.

Q: My family group is arriving separately (e.g., 3 arrive early, 2 arrive later). How should we check in?

A: Each group will need to present a ticket QR code at the gate to check in and receive their entry wristbands. If your group is split up, please **share a screenshot of your ticket QR code with the family members arriving later** so they can easily scan it on their phones when they arrive.

Q: I am a registered chanter. Where do I meet my group?

A: When you arrive, please check in at the main **Registration Desk** to receive your **Chanter wristband**. Once checked in, proceed inside **Building 1 (right by the registration check-in area)** where there is a dedicated, clearly marked seating area for all chanting participants to gather and sit together.

Q: How will the chanters know their turn is coming up while they wait inside the gym?

A: There are multiple ways:

- There will be a screen inside the gym showing live feed of what is going on outside on the stage which will show the sequence # & name of the group chanting.
- Your id tag shows your sequence #.

Please be inside the gym at least 4 numbers before your sequence #.

Please be ready to line up outside when your group leader & volunteer ask you to.

3. Parking & Getting There

Q: What is the venue address?

A: DuPage County Fairgrounds & Event Center
2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, IL 60187

Q: How do I enter the fairgrounds?

A: Please enter strictly through the designated event entrance on **Manchester Road** as marked explicitly with an **entry arrow on the event map.**



Q: Is parking available? Is it free?

A: Yes, ample free parking is available on the fairgrounds across multiple large parking lots. We highly recommend arriving by 8:30 AM to find parking easily before the Havan begins promptly at 9:00 AM.

Q: Is there handicapped parking and a drop-off area?

A: Yes. Designated handicapped parking is located right near the main entrance (check the above map). A dedicated drop-off zone is also fully operational. Please follow on-site signage upon arrival.

4. Restrooms & Facilities

Q: Where are the restrooms located?

A: Restrooms are located in the following areas:

- **Near Check-in/Registration:** Accessible from both inside and outside the building (marked as the red oval zone on your layout map).

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- **Inside Building 1:** Located directly on each side of the main stage.
 - **Inside Building 3:** At the sponsor check-in and seating building.
- Note:** All restroom facilities include clean baby changing stations.

Q: Is there a water station?

A: Yes, a water bottle refill station is fully operational inside Building 1. Please bring a refillable water bottle to stay fully hydrated throughout the day, especially during the outdoor portions of the program.

5. Havan, Ahuti & Aarti Sponsorships

Q: What is the structural difference between Havan, Ahuti, and Aarti sevas?

- **Havan Sponsor:** Receives two seats at a dedicated Havan Kund for the full duration of the ceremony, with a trained volunteer to support you.
- **Ahuti Sponsor:** Guided directly to a designated Ahuti area and provided with materials on-site to offer Ahuti into the Kunda at the appropriate time. 14 and 21 rounds of Ahuti sponsors may be provided with a seat near Kunda.
- **Aarti Sponsor:** Must be physically present inside Building No. 2 toward the end of the 21 rounds of chanting, where volunteers will guide you to offer Aarti at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Q: I registered for a sponsorship. What do I do when I arrive?

A: Please arrive no later than 8:30 AM, as the Havan begins promptly at 9:00 AM. First, check in at the main gate to receive your official event wristbands and lanyards. From there, volunteers will immediately direct you to Building No. 2 for your specific Havan, Ahuti, or Aarti check-in. Please note: The primary registrant must be present at the Building 2 desk to complete verification and receive your physical materials (gift bag, prasad bag, and shoe bag). Once checked in, a floor usher will escort you directly to your assigned seat. Chairs will be provided for all participants inside the Havan area. However, you are warmly welcome to bring a personal floor cushion if you prefer to sit down on the floor.

Q: How many people can sit inside the active Havan rows?

A: Due to precise layout spacing and strict safety constraints surrounding the fire pits, **only two individuals per sponsorship are permitted to sit inside the active Havan area at any given time.** Additional family members and guests are warmly invited to sit in the dedicated guest seating at the back of the tent, as they are not permitted inside the active Kunda rows. If your family plans to rotate participation during different rounds, you must physically hand over the official event lanyard to the two people actively sitting for that turn. Please coordinate your turns in advance, as no one is permitted to stand or wait in the active Havan area.

Q: What is the shoe policy for the Havan area?

A: To maintain the sanctity of the ritual environment, shoes are strictly prohibited inside the active Havan area. During check-in, you will receive a dedicated shoe bag to cleanly store your footwear,

which you may keep with you at your designated seat. Alternatively, there may be a designated space outside the Havan area where you can leave your shoes at your own risk.

Q: Can I bring my own ritual materials (samagri) from home?

A: No, please do not bring any outside ritual materials or samagri from home. All necessary Havan samagri and sacred offerings will be provided to you on-site by the event team.

6. Food & Refreshments

Q: Is food available at the event?

A: Yes! While you immerse yourself in the Havan and family programs, a dedicated food area will feature a wide variety of **all-vegetarian and vegan food** stalls open throughout the event

You can look forward to a diverse range of cuisines, including **authentic South Indian dishes, classic North Indian flavors, street food, and fusion options like Mexican-inspired vegetarian grills**. Fresh chai, and quick snacks will also be available all day long. Additionally, holy Prasad will be distributed to all attendees after the conclusion of the Havan.

Q: Is there seating available to eat?

A: There will be plenty of **outdoor seating available** near the food stalls. **Additionally, inside** the Havan registration building (**Building 3**), there is a designated indoor space that features limited family seating for families to sit down together and enjoy their meals.

Q: What payment methods do the food stalls accept?

A: Most vendors accept standard credit cards, though it is always handy to have multiple payment options available.

Q: Can I bring food inside the buildings?

A: No food or drinks are permitted inside the **main exhibition and cultural buildings**. Please enjoy all food and beverages strictly in the outdoor food stall area or designated dining spaces.

7. Children & Family

Q: What activities are available for children, and where are they located?

A: The Children's Mela features various fun activities, games, and crafts tailored for **all ages**. It will run from **10:30 AM to 1:30 PM** and will be hosted **both indoors and outdoors around Building 1**. You can drop by at any time during these hours to let your children participate.

Q: Can I drop my children off at the Children's Mela while I attend the Havan?

A: No. **Parental supervision is strictly required at all times.** Children **MUST** be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian throughout the entire duration of their participation in the activities. **There is absolutely no drop-off option available.**

Q: I want to learn more about the Chinmaya Mission Bala Vihar program. Will there be information available?

A: Yes! There will be a dedicated **Bala Vihar booth** in **Building 1**, near the children's activity area. You can visit the booth throughout the day to meet teachers, view course materials, ask questions,

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and learn about registrations for the upcoming academic year across our various Chicagoland centers (Badri, Yamunotri, and Gangotri).

Q: What time does the cultural program start?

A: The Grand Cultural Program will start at **2:00 PM** on the main stage inside **Building 1**, immediately following the completion of the Havan and chanting.

Please do not miss the cultural program scheduled to start at 2pm in building #1. We will be celebrating the timeless bond between Lord Rama and Hanuman with an amazing cultural program in both classical and folk styles presenting the traditions from different regions of India including Odisha, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, and parts of South India. The highlight of the program is a new production titled “**Navarasa**” directed by **Smt Hema Rajagopalan of Natya Dance Theatre**.

8. Exhibition & Booths

Q: Will there be exhibitions or community booths at the event?

A: Yes! **Vayuputra in Windy City** is proud to host a vibrant exhibition space featuring **30+ community booths, cultural exhibits, and non-profit organization displays**.

Q: I would like to learn more about Swami Chinmayananda. Will there be information available?

A: Yes! We invite you to visit the **Swami Chinmaya Jeevan Darshan** exhibit. It features a beautiful, inspiring visual journey showcasing the incredible life, profound teachings, and global **legacy of Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda**.

9. Dress Code & What to Bring

Q: Is there a dress code?

A: We encourage comfortable and modest traditional Indian attire for the event. Simple, event-appropriate clothing is also perfectly fine. For Havan participants, please avoid very loose or flowing fabric near live-fire areas, and choose attire that allows comfortable floor or chair sitting for an extended period.

Q: What should I bring with me?

A: We recommend bringing the following items for your comfort:

- **Refillable water bottle** (refill station available inside Building 1)
- **Hanuman Chalisa booklet** (Limited physical copies will also be available on-site)
- Sunscreen, sunglasses, and hats for outdoor protection
- **Personal medications** or essential family comfort items

10. Accessibility & Safety

Q: Is the venue wheelchair and stroller accessible?

A: Yes. The DuPage County Fairgrounds buildings and main pathways are accessible to wheelchairs, strollers, and mobility scooters. Designated handicapped parking is located close to the entrance to minimize walking distance.

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11. General & Photography

Q: Can I take photos and videos during the event?

A: Personal photography and videography for family memories are highly encouraged! However, please remain respectful of the sacred ritual space during active Havan chanting rounds.

Q: I have a question that is not listed here. Who do I ask?

A: Find any volunteer on-site wearing a visible **blue Ceremonial Stole** or visit the main Information Desk located outside the Building 1, near the Havan tent

12. Tips for a Smooth Experience

Q: This is my first time attending a grand Havan. What should I expect?

A: A Havan is a sacred and deeply uplifting Vedic fire ritual accompanied by prayers and spiritual chanting. The atmosphere at Vayuputra will be incredibly vibrant, with thousands of voices uniting to chant the Hanuman Chalisa. Anyone is welcome to listen, chant along, and absorb the peaceful spiritual energy.

Q: When is the absolute best time to arrive?

A: Gates open at 7:30 AM for volunteers, with the **registration counter opening at 8:00 AM**. To beat morning traffic on Manchester Road and secure a good parking spot, we recommend arriving by 7:30–8:00 AM, especially if you're a Havan/Ahuti sponsor, so you're ready to register as soon as the counter opens.