

IACCT SANCTUM & PRAYER HALL GUIDELINES

Reference:

IACCT Guidelines for Satsang Sponsors

General:

1. The Sanctum and Prayer Hall are sacred areas and as such, please offer your cooperation in every way possible to maintain their sacredness.
 - a. In compliance with IACCT Policy, please do not bring in (or cook in the IACCT Kitchen) any non-vegetarian food (including poultry and seafood) and any alcoholic beverages.
 - b. Please do not wear your shoes (regardless of the material they are manufactured of) in the Prayer Hall and the Sanctum areas. Place them in the Shoe Room located in the reception area. Shoes can be worn in the Temple premises outside of the Sanctum and the Prayer Hall.
 - c. Please do not consume any food, including Prasadam, inside the Sanctum and the Prayer Hall.
2. All proceeds from the Aarati (in the Prayer Hall) collections go to the Temple Donation Box regardless of the nature of event being held. If the sponsors of the event wish to collect donations for a specific charitable organization, a special donation box clearly marked for that charity should be prepared and placed in the reception area outside of the Prayer Hall. Also, an announcement should be made during the event that those willing to donate for that charity may do so by placing their donations in the special box.
3. Please keep general conversations (socializing) to the minimum. Maintain silence if possible.
4. Please do not leave your young children un-accompanied in the Sanctum area.

For Satsang & Pooja Sponsors:

5. It is suggested that you consider fasting until the morning Pooja is completed.
6. If you are participating in the performance of the Pooja, please remove all items made of leather, such as belts, key holders, wallets, cases of electronic devices such as cell phones, palm PCs etc. from your person before entering the Sanctum.
7. Please sweep the Sanctum area clean with the broom in the Sanctum storage room. Please do not use any other broom.
8. Please keep all unneeded items, extra Pooja utensils, bottles of ghee, oil, water etc. in the Sanctum storage room.
9. Please remove all wilted flowers and preferably replace them with fresh flowers.
10. Naivedya, food offerings to God, cooked at home, should be fresh, clean and not part of any food items that may have been pre-tasted or eaten.

11. Please do not climb on the Deity platform steps. Keep the lower step free of all items except Pooja related materials, and place these in a neat & aesthetic manner.
12. Please do not place any offerings on the upper Deity platform step
13. Please do not offer any flowers, akshata or any thing else directly to the Deities. The Priest will do the offerings on your behalf. The Makarana marble from which the Deities are carved can be easily stained.
14. Please place all your offerings on the lower Deity platform step or on the Sanctum floor.
15. Only the Priest can perform abhishek for the Shiv Linga and for the small Utsava Moorti of Lord Balaji. No abhishek is allowed for the other Deities.
16. Please place the Aarati trays on the Sanctum floor or on either side of the Sanctum on the lower Deity step only. Make sure that the Aarati trays or any lamps are not directly placed upon or near any sheets of paper or cloth.
17. Whenever in doubt, please ask the Priest about the circumstances under which, the performance of Pooja is not recommended.

[Approved by the Board of Directors during the
IACCT Board Meeting of February 10, 2002,
Revised & re-approved on September 14, 2003]