

Vaishnavi Gandhi is a student at Seven Lakes High School, an active volunteer in the community, and the reigning Miss Teen Bollywood 2016

# MISS TEEN Bollywood

Written by Wendy Teng

## AVID VOLUNTEER AND SEVEN LAKES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, VAISHNAVI GANDHI, ACCEPTS A BOLLYWOOD CROWN

Seven Lakes High School student and reigning Miss Teen Bollywood 2016, Vaishnavi Gandhi, loves being a part of the diverse Katy community. Her title is made even more impressive by the fact that this is Gandhi's first pageant.

Her parents, Deven and Kinnari Gandhi, have been her biggest supporters. "They are the ones who believed in me from the beginning and constantly urged me to push myself," she says. "They always believe in me even when I don't believe in myself."

### A HEART FOR SERVICE

A member of Interact and Spartans Out Serving, Future Business Leaders of America, Pre-Med Society and HOSA, National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, and the National Spanish Honor Society, Gandhi stays pretty busy aside from her royal duties. As a volunteer for the Be the Match organization, she also helps register bone marrow donors for people suffering from blood cancers and other blood disorders.

### THE CROWNING MOMENT

Gandhi describes the moment she was announced Miss Teen Bollywood as shocking, wonderful, and rendering her speechless. In addition to the pageant title, Gandhi was also awarded Miss Talented for her performance of a Bollywood dance. She recalls many fun memories leading up to the pivotal moment. But of course, the most unforgettable one was being crowned by a famous Bollywood actress and winner of Eve's Weekly Miss India Contest in 1981. "In addition, one of the sponsors, Rehan Siddiqui, gave me free VIP passes for a year to all Bollywood concerts that he hosts," Gandhi adds.

Through this process, Gandhi learned more about herself, developed personal strengths, and made many new friends with other candidates. "I learned that you shine your brightest when you are being yourself and having fun. I also gained a lot of self-confidence from this pageant," she says.

Gandhi aspires to be a medical scientist in order to study stem cells and find out the link between stem cells and the potential cures for a variety of diseases like Alzheimer's and diabetes. She will continue to strive to set a great example for young royalty that will follow in her footsteps. **KM**



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