



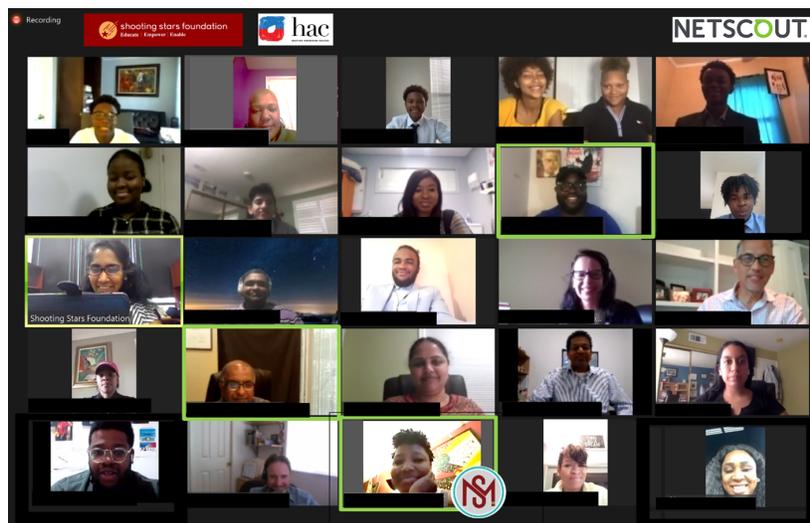
shooting stars foundation
Educate | Empower | Enable

Monthly Newsletter

September 2020

Diversity and Inclusive Youth Camp

To fulfil its mission to Educate, Empower, and Enable young generations to foster a more equitable economy at home in the U.S., **SSF** organized and managed a group of high school students from the **Haitian American Caucus (HAC-Global)** to learn business and entrepreneurship from professional mentors. It was heartwarming to hear “WHY” they wanted to do the camp ... “I am doing it only because my mom asked me to, she has suffered so much for us”, “I believe this will get us out of poverty”, and “I want to become a billionaire”, amongst other reasons. The final session was the pitching day to the judges, NetScout CEO, **Anil Singhal**, and VP Global Services Operations, **Tracy Steele**. SSF thanks **NetScout** for providing the **\$10,000 grants** and *mentors* through its *employee engagement program*. SSF also thanks **Samuel Pierre**, co-founder of HAC-Global, **Nadia Aristide**, founder of Maroon Strategist, and **Vanessa Adolphe** of HAC-Global, for their partnerships with SSF.



2020 Nebula Youth Summit

The **Nebula Challenge** is an international entrepreneurship competition for rising 8th to 12th graders and is powered by the Shooting Stars Foundation. This competition encourages students to let their ideas flourish, develop innovative solutions to the world problems, and win cash prizes for seed funding. It was not an easy task for our first-round judges, **Puneet Kaushik, Annamalai Muthu, Karthik Chandhramoulie,** and **David Bromberg**, to select 10 finalists from **50+ project worldwide** applications. The final presentation was the **Nebula Youth Summit** on September 19, 2020. Around **170 participants from 7 countries** enjoyed the keynote speakers **Shayne Veramallay** and **Suma Vinod**, sharing their life and entrepreneurship experiences. They also learned from **Unamalai Krishnan** and **Ramesh Srinivas**, and listened excitedly to youth panelists **Michael Loffe, Wes Woodson,** and **Avni Barman**, led by podcaster **Sanat Singhal**. Judges **Patrick Convery, Andrea Lown,** and **Tracey DeLeeuw** grilled the top 10 teams and decided on 3 prizes and 1 honorable mention. It was a successful closing of a yearlong preparation by SSF high school leaders, **Vaarun** and **Ansh**, guided by SSF CEO **Latha**, and a teamwork of **Asif, Vibhu, Vikram,** and **Kamiya**.



2020 Rangeela Portland

A lot has been happening with COVID, unrest, and wildfires. The Rangeela Team in Portland, Oregon, led by **Subha Singaram**, cheered the public up with a great family evening entertainment. We thought we would be lucky if 200 tickets were sold but absolutely did not expect this kind of response with **600** strong audiences, who got dinner delivered right to their doors by **Meenu Sethu** and a team of **30** dedicated volunteers! The streaming by our in-house DJs **Vijay** and **Rajkumar** were glitch-free, celebrating 200+ Portland's amazing talent, and we raised approximately **\$35,000** in **3 hours**, from **35 donors**!

Thank you, Donors





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Sold Out Show
(600+ attendees)



- Around 600 dinner boxes delivered by **30** Volunteers, led by **Meenu Sethu** !
- **LIVE Musical Bingo** with Portland celebrities
- **140** offline competition entries
- Creatively captured dances
- Emcees **Lalitha, Meena, Ankur, Hema, Dharani, and Priya**
- **COVID Panelists**
Dr. Shobana Rajagopal and Dr. Kirthika Baskar

Thank you, Event Sponsors



Thank you, Volunteers



CHALLENGES

Music Challenge - Sing or Play an Instrument
Any popular Indian movie song**Minimum 3 minutes** Solo Entries Only

Dance Challenge
Indian Movie Song**Minimum 1 minute** No Age Restrictions** Solo Entries Allowed

Battle of the Bands
Any Indian language high music Minimum 5 minutes
** Can be one or multiple songs** Minimum of 3-10 band members

Art Challenge
Submit your creative art work (Paintings, Drawings - Paper, Canvas, Fabric)
** Size between 8X10 to 18X24 ** Mail picture of art to Rangeela@gs@gmail.com
** Selected Art work will be displayed in the event venue.



Live from Rangeela Zooming Center



Live from Rangeela Food Delivery Zone

Thank you, Prize Sponsors



THANK YOU TO OUR PRIZE SPONSORS

Scholar Highlight

We would like to share a remarkable achievement by one of our scholars, **Shashi Kumar**. Shashi is in his final year BE Electronics and Communication at Saveetha Engineering College in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. He is extremely passionate about electronics, and has completed several IOT/ Sensor / Embedded Systems based projects for his college. He has also completed certifications in Machine Learning, Electroanalytical Analysis of Water Splitting, and PCB Design, on his own. He is a key person in his college robotics lab, and works part time in his college's in-house company, Precision Tools & Machines, to support his family.

One of his projects was featured on a Tamil TV channel :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GK-JzQQkibc&list=PLLIHY9qpkwZPJghpDIPxOgQSQpz2DqBKz&index=182> (Please refer to the video from 9 mins onwards)

We are proud of Shashi and call him our junior inventor.



Spot Your Adopted Scholars

Here is a heartfelt thank you from a few of our scholars. Can you spot your adopted scholar?



<https://youtu.be/qCy-ZwNnZpc>

Why Volunteer for SSF ?



Meenu Sethu, OR

1. **Why SSF?** Extremely gratifying.
2. **Tip to keep high school volunteers stay excited?** Keep setting achievable targets and constant guidance at every step.
3. **How did you maintain the energy to do all you've done for SSF?** Perseverance has stayed relentless and timeless. Of course the guidance and trust provided at each time continued to push me forward.
4. **Tips for other volunteers?** Stay determined to develop positive energy. Sharing is caring!

High school volunteers fondly call Meenu: the auntie who always leads with heartfelt love.



Lucas Cai, TX

1. **Why SSF?** Impact on my community and other people around the world.
2. **Tip to keep high school volunteers stay excited?** Share your passion (mine is coding and app dev) to make an impact, helping others who don't have easy access to education.
4. **Tips for other (High School) volunteers?** Get to know the people you're working with, cohort members, hackathon participants, volunteers, guests. It becomes much more fun once you form that connection. I meet many wonderful people through SSF events.

Hackathon participants call Lucas: the patient mentor who will answer ALL your questions !

More Ways to Support Shooting Stars

- **Become a High School Officer** : Lead programs, social media, mentor
- **Adopt a Scholar** - Help one student graduate college
- **Professional Mentoring** : Coach Nebula Incubator Program
- **Volunteer with Scholars** : Mentor Scholars, Teach them Skills, Rounded development
- **Volunteer with SSF** : Run Programs, Write Content, Manage donors !

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