



USA VISIT

THE ISMAILI CENTER

INAUGURATION

PARTICIPANT AUDITION PACKAGE

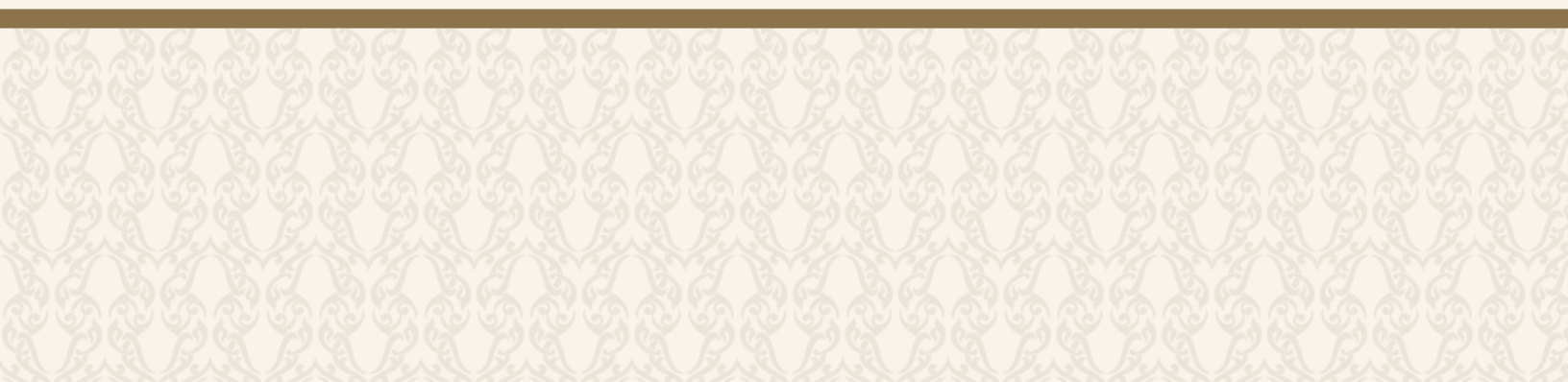




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This Audition Participation Package is designed to help you prepare for the auditions and provide you with information to help you with auditioning.

Mubarak!

It is with immense joy and gratitude that we extend Mubarak and our warmest congratulations to the entire Jamat on the blessed occasion of the upcoming USA Visit of our beloved 50th Imam, Mawlana Shah Rahim al-Hussaini Hazar Imam and the inauguration of our nation's very first Ismaili Center.

In preparing for ceremonies scheduled during the inauguration of the Ismaili Center in Houston, TX, participants between the **ages of 10–25** from all across the United States are invited to participate in auditions for recitations during the inauguration. This package has been prepared with an intention to provide details of various opportunities of participation, as well as to facilitate your own reflection, understanding, and engagement with this visit. We wish to offer humble *shukrana* to Mawlana Hazar Imam for this blessing, and offer mubarakis and best wishes to you and your families for this service opportunity.



Audition Categories

Participants may submit only **one** audition from the categories listed below. The content for each category, from which the audition material will be drawn, is provided in the Audition Content section.

- Tilawat-e-Qur'an
- Translation of Qur'anic verses
- United States National Anthem

How to Register for the Audition

Information on how to register to audition will be communicated through official channels soon.

What to Expect of the Audition

As with any recitation of devotional literature, we should observe the utmost respect and adab (etiquette and humility) in these auditions to reflect this blessed occasion. As such, all participants are encouraged to submit a video recording **up to 3 minutes long**.

Video Recording Guidance

To help ensure clarity and consistency across all submissions, please follow these recommendations:

- Record vertically for consistency.
- Speak or recite clearly, calmly, and with confidence.
- Ensure good lighting and minimal background noise.
- Keep the camera at eye level, with a simple, uncluttered background.



Audition Evaluation

Participants should have the ability to ‘own’ the content and its delivery whilst exhibiting a positive attitude and humility. A separate criteria will be utilized for various genres. **Please see details below:**

Tilawat-e-Qur’an

- Consistency of tune, scale, and pitch
- Quality of voice, intonation, recitation, and accent
- Pronunciation and clarity
- Confidence and preparation

Translation of Verses of the Qur’an

- Pronunciation, clarity, tone, and intonation
- Right pace and smooth flow
- Audible and voice modulation
- Confidence and preparation

United States National Anthem

- Consistency of tune, scale, and pitch
- Pronunciation and clarity of words
- Appropriate tempo and smooth flow
- Confidence, stage presence, and preparation



Audition Content

The Audition Content comprises a selection of Tilawat-e-Quran, Translation of Qur'anic verses, and the United States National Anthem to be **sung**.

Any Jamati member **between the ages of 10-25** by November 5 can register to audition and may choose one audition from the genres below. Each audition must be completed **within three minutes**.

Please note:

Tilawat-e-Quran

- The selected Qur'anic verses to be recited in its entirety are included.
- Arabic text and English transliterations are provided.
- Participants are expected to choose from one of the provided selections.

Translation of Verses of the Qur'an

- Participants are expected to choose from one of the provided text selections.

United States National Anthem

*this audition recitation is tentative for inclusion in the inauguration

- The United States National Anthem will be sung.
- Participants are expected to perform it in its entirety from the provided selection.



Category: Tilawat-e-Qur'an
Option 1: Surah al-Nisa, Ayat 1

Tilawat-e-Qur'an: Surah al-Nisa, Ayat 1

Transliteration:

bismi'l-lāhi'r-raḥmāni'r-raḥīm

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

yā-ayyuha'n-nāsu't-
taqū rabbakumu'l-ladhī
khalaqakum-min-nafsi'w-
wāḥidati'w-wa-khalaqa minhā
zawjahā wa-baththa minhumā
rijālan kathīra'w-
wa-nisā'a'w-wa'ttaqū'l-
lāha'l-ladhī tasā'alūna bi-hi
wa'l-arḥām inna'l-lāha kāna
'alaykum raqībā

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ
نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ
مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ
الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ
كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا ﴿١﴾



Category: Tilawat-e-Qur'an

Option 2: Surah al-Baqarah, Ayat 255 (Ayat al-Kursi)

Tilawat-e-Qur'an: Surah al-Baqarah, Ayat 255 (Ayat al-Kursi)

Transliteration:

bismi'l-lāhi'r-raḥmāni'r-raḥīm

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ﴿٢٥٥﴾

allāhu lā ilāha illā
 huwa'l-ḥayyu'l-qayyūm^u lā
 ta'khudhuhū sinatu'w-wa-lā
 nawmu'l-lahū mā
 fi's-samawāti wa-mā fi'l-ard
 man dhā'l-ladhī yashfa'u
 'indahū illā bi-idhnihi ya'lamu
 mā bayna aydihim wa-mā
 khalfahum wa-lā yuhīṭuna bi-
 shay'i'm-min 'ilmihī illā
 bi-mā shā'a wasi'a
 kursiyyuhu's-samawāti wa'l-ard^a
 wa-lā ya'uduhū ḥifẓuhumā
 wa-huwa'l-'aliyyu'l-'azīm

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ
 لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي
 السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي
 يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ
 أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ
 مِنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ
 السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا
 وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ ﴿٢٥٥﴾



Category: Qur'an Translation
Option 1: Surah al-Nisa, Ayat 1

Translation: Surah al-Nisa, Ayat 1

In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

O humankind, be conscious of your Lord
Who created you from a single soul
and created from it its spouse, and spread
from both numerous men and women.
Be conscious of Allah in whose Name you
question one another and [be mindful] of
kinship. Indeed Allah watches well over you. (1)

Category: Qur'an Translation
Option 2: Surah al-Baqarah, Ayat 255 (Ayat al-Kursi)

Translation: Surah al-Baqarah, Ayat 255 (Ayat al-Kursi)

In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Allah, there is no god but He, the Living, the Everlasting One.
Neither slumber overtakes Him nor sleep. To Him belongs
what is in the heavens and what is on the earth. Who is there
that shall intercede with Him except by His permission? He
knows what is in their present state (*literally* between their hands)
and their past. And they cannot grasp of His knowledge except
what He wills. His throne encompasses the heavens and the earth;
and the preservation of them is not a burden to Him. He is the
Exalted, the Supreme. (255)



Category: United States National Anthem

During the inauguration of the Ismaili Center, there may be a possibility of a LIVE National Anthem performance. For this, participants are invited to record a video performance of The Star-Spangled Banner and upload it to the Auditions App. Please review the Video Recording Guidance below to ensure the highest quality submission.

The Star-Spangled Banner

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

What to Expect After the Auditions

The final selections will be made by the National ITREB USA Judges panel. Selected candidates will be shortlisted and invited to participate in an in-person, final round of audition in Houston. The final selections will be made by National ITREB USA.

Video Recording Guidance

To help ensure clarity and consistency across all submissions, please follow these recommendations:

- Record vertically for consistency.
- Speak or recite clearly, calmly, and with confidence.
- Ensure good lighting and minimal background noise.
- Keep the camera at eye level, with a simple, uncluttered background.



Frequently Asked Questions

1. When will the auditions be held?

All Ismaili Center participants can begin submitting videos starting October 11 - 19, 2025. Please check the Ismaili Insight, Ismaili App, or contact your local Jamatkhana Auditions Coordinator for details particular to your region.

2. Do I have to be in a specific region to participate?

Jamati members from all regions (Central, Florida, Midwest, Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, Western United States) are eligible to audition.

3. What is the age limit for the audition categories?

Participants must be between the ages of 10 and 25 for all categories. To be eligible, participants must be at least 10 years old and not older than 25 as of November 5.

4. How many categories can I audition for?

You can audition for only one category.

5. If I audition for Ismaili Center Opening Ceremonies, would it disqualify me from participating in didar or youth *mulaqat* auditions?

If you reside in Central or Southwest Regions, you can audition for both Ismaili Center opening ceremonies and didar and youth *mulaqat* auditions. However, if selected, you will be offered only one recitation opportunity.

6. How will my recitation be evaluated by the judges?

Refer to the Audition Evaluation section above for detailed information.

7. Will I receive feedback during the audition or at any point after?

Judges will not be able to share any feedback with you during the course of an audition or at any point thereafter. We humbly request that you refrain from seeking any such feedback, so that we can have a fair and equitable process applicable to all members of the Jamat.

8. May I seek coaching in order to prepare for my audition?

We encourage you to be prepared to the best of your ability. You are welcome to seek coaching from family members or friends to support your preparation. However, coaching from individuals directly involved in the audition process—such as judges, Jamatkhana coordinators, or others in official roles—is not permitted. For selected finalists, coaches will be assigned to help guide and support your continued preparation for all categories.

9. Will I be required to stand, sit on a chair, or sit on the floor for my audition?

You may choose what you are comfortable with.

10. Who can I contact for additional information?

You can contact volunteers at the audition desk in your Jamatkhana or email didarauditionhelp@gmail.com.