

The following projects are exclusively available for single sponsors

Lord Ayyappa Maha Sannidhanam Sponsor - Sannidhanam is the central shrine of the Ayyappa sanctum sanctorum and seats Lord Ayyappa and includes the 18 steps and all Upa-devathas. (\$50,001)

Lord Ayyappa Gopuram Sponsor - It is the main gopuram for Lord Ayyappa and will come right above the Sannidhanam of Lord Ayyappa and the eighteen steps. (\$25,001)

Lord Ayyappa Prana Pratishta - "Prana" means "breath" and "pratishta" means "establishing". The Prana Pratishta ceremony is literally "establishing the breath" within the sacred deity of Lord Ayyappa. In other words, it is bringing Lord Ayyappa to life within the Sanctum Sanctorum. (\$20,001)

UPADEVATHAS (\$5001 each)

Malikapurathamma - She is the Parashakthi and Buvaneshwari. Maalikapuram showers her devotees with blessings. She has the powers of all the Devi embodiments of the Shaiva, Vaishnava and Saktha philosophies. She does not have any special form, yet she can be any possible form. She is worshipped by offering blouse pieces and turmeric powder.

Nagaraja - The king of all serpents, entwines the neck of Lord Siva and also is the bed of Lord Vishnu. This five headed serpent is 'Vaasuki' the most revered of the serpents of Siva. The five heads represents the five external objects (organs) of action are ears, eyes, tongue, nose, skin.

Vavar Swami - Vavar is believed to be a close friend of Sri Ayyappa. It is believed that he was a warrior who was defeated and controlled by Ayyappa. Later he became a close friend such that the Lord himself instructed the Pandalam king to build a mosque for Vavar at Erumeli and a shrine at Sabarimala.

Kanne Moola Maha Ganapathi - By calling on Maha Ganapathi people believe that he will come to their aid and grant them success in their endeavours. Maha Ganapathi also is considered the God of intellect and wisdom. As the "Patron of Letters" Maha Ganapathi is invoked at the beginning of any writing.

Sri Dharma Sastha - Lord Ayyappa is in the form of Sri Dharma Sastha, the protector of righteousness here. The pilgrims on their sojourn to Sabarimala worship at Erumeli Sri Dharma Sastha Temple and conduct "Petta Thullai". According to traditional belief, Petta Thullai is the re-enactment of the annihilation of Mahishi by Lord Ayyappa.

Sri Achan Kovil - Sitting in with his hand extended in 'Chinmudra' posture, in his palm he has sandalwood and holy water. These are used as antidotal divine medicine to cure snake bites. Lord Ayyappa is in the form of "Grihasthasrami". Lord is sitting along with 'Poorna' and 'Pushkkala'

Sri Aryankavu - At Aryankavu, Lord Ayyappa appears as a young man - Brahmachari. The shrine at Aryankavu is known as Aryankavu Sastha Temple and Sastha is depicted in his youthful image, as a young man, sitting with his leg folded and right extended, on an elephant.

Sri Kulathu Puzha - The deity here is Manikandan or the child form of Lord Ayyappa. Bala Sastha who is believed to be an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. The 'Matsya' kanyakas saw 'Bala Sastha' undergoing penance at this location. Due to their intense devotion, 'Sastha' decided to adopt the life style of these 'Matsya' kayakas. It is due to this fact that offering feed to the fishes is an important part of the ritual of this temple.

Hindu Temple of St. Louis

Lord Ayyappa Maha Sannidhanam



Coming Soon 2010 - 2011



Dear Ayyappa Devotees,

We are happy to inform you that next year, **The Hindu Temple of St. Louis** will be one of the few places in the world to house Sri Ayyappa Maha Sannidhanam. We invite you to avail this unique opportunity of being a part of the Maha Sannidhanam Project.

Sri Ayyappa is worshipped as an ascetic, a celibate meditating in solitude for the benefit of all humankind. Every Ayyappa devotee experiences the realization that the Supreme Soul and the devotee are one. Caste, creed, color, religion, and social status melt away before Ayyappa, who is aptly referred as Dharma Sashta – one who reaches and upholds Dharma.

Sri Ayyappa Maha Sannidhanam comprises of the 18 holy steps, the Upa Devathas and the Ayyappa, himself. The 18 Holy steps are the holy pathways for the Jeevaatma to reach the Paramaatma. Jeevaatma has to cross the 18 virtues to merge with paramaatma. Every year, Ayyappa devotees who take strict vratham for upto 41 days have to climb the 18 steps with irumudi on top of their head to culminate the vratham. The construction of the Ayyappa temple in St. Louis will provide this unique opportunity for Ayyappa devotees in the USA and Canada, who are unable to go on pilgrimage to Sabarimala every year

For more information about the Maha Sannidhanam Project, please read the rest of this brochure and contact us.

Swamiye Saranam Ayyappa

The Hindu Temple of St. Louis

725 Weidman Road, Ballwin MO 63011; (636) 230-3300

The Maha Sannidhanam Project



The Maha Sannidhanam project is a very big project and requires contribution from every one of us.

NO CONTRIBUTION IS A SMALL ONE.

We request you to look at the following projects and their descriptions, and then please provide us with your selection in the attached. **PLEDGE / DONATION form.**

Sannidhanam Bricks - Brick that will be used for constructing the temple (\$51 / brick)

Sannidhanam floor - Temple floor space (\$101 / sq.ft)

Ayyappa Kalasa - The idol of Lord Ayyappa has a particular form and represents the personal aspect of reality. The Kalasa on top of the temple is not in the shape of any person or form and so it represents the attributeless, nirguna (without form) aspect of reality. The Kalasa will come on top of the Maha Sannidhanam Gopuram (\$501 / kalasa)

Kaduthaswami and Karuppaswami - Kaduthaswami, and Karuppaswami are the devoted guards of the 18 Holy Steps and the Ayyappa Temple. They stand on both sides of the 18 Holy Steps, Kaduthaswami on the right and Karuppaswami on the left. They maintain the sanctity of the temple surroundings and the 18 Holy steps and bless the devotees who climb the steps with rumudi. (\$2001)

Holy Steps 1-18 - The 18 Holy steps are the holy pathways for the Jeevaatma to reach the Paramaatma. Jeevaatma has to cross the 18 virtues to merge with Paramaatma.

The first five steps symbolize the five human senses (Panchendriyas) i.e. visual (vision), auditory (hearing), olfactory (smell), gustatory (taste) and tactile (touch). These signify the 'mortal' nature of one's body.

The next eight steps symbolize the eight Ashtaragas i.e. Kama, Krodha, Lobha, Moha, Madha, Malsarya, Asooya, Dhumb (Love, Anger, Avarice, Lust, Pride, Unhealthy Competition, Jealousy and Boastfulness). The next three steps stand for three Gunas or Thrigunas (nature-born qualities) i.e. Satva, (perspicuity, discernment), Rajas (activity, enjoyment) and Thamas (inactivity, stupor).

The last two steps represent Avidya (Ignorance) and Vidya (Knowledge). (\$3000 / step)

All donations to the hindu temple are 100% tax exempted