

A PRICELESS INITIATIVE

BeeTalk presents "A Tree for Free" by Earth Club, NSU

LABIBA MUSTABINA

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now" – Chinese proverb.

With this exact purpose the Earth Club of North South University hosted their most anticipated event of the year, "BeeTalk presents A Tree for Free" on October 5-7, 2015. "A Tree for Free", as the name suggests, was an event aimed at distributing 1000 plants among the students, staff members and faculty members of North South University, for free. The event was sponsored by BeeTalk, a social networking app. The event was initiated last year by Earth Club as a means of promoting tree plantation among the North South University populace.

The event began at noon of October 5. As the booths for plants distribution were set up, students started gathering around the booth. The steps to getting a tree for free were simple: install the BeeTalk app, register the student ID number and then simply collect the tree. By the next hour, around 100 plants had already been distributed. After the lunch break, 200 more plants were given out till the booth closed for the day. Over the next two days, the crowd grew bigger and the plants were received with even greater eagerness, where 300 and then 400 plants were given away on the second and third day respectively.

The students of NSU were overly enthused at the opportunity of receiving a potted plant for free. Despite having to stand in a queue in between classes, a huge crowd of students were constantly present around the booth, looking for their chance to

grab a plant.

Nandita, a student of Economics, excitedly articulated her experience of getting a brand new potted plant for free: "I feel really lucky to be one of those 1000 to be getting a plant today. I feel like I'm going to be contributing towards the environment in my own way by taking this plant home. I'll keep this on my desk and it'll always be a reminder of this wonderful event."

Not only the students but faculty members from every department of NSU were also gifted with selected plants. The event was highly appreciated by faculty members and the North South University authority.

The faculty advisor of Earth Club, Nishat Shayala Islam, explained when asked about the future plans of the club regarding the event: "This event was initiated with the hope of encouraging a greener environment among the people of North South University and we believe we have been successful based on the tremendous response from everyone. However, we intend to take "A Tree for Free" beyond the boundaries of North South University to reach out to a greater mass of people with the aim of creating a greener and better future".

The radio partner for the event was Radio Foorti and the print media partner was SHOUT.

Labiba Mustabina studies biochemistry and biotechnology at North South University. A tree hugger, she also claims to be a closet artist. You can reach her at labiba.wish@gmail.com



PHOTO: ANIRUDHA HAQ MUKHOR

ENCOUNTERS ON A SCHOOL TRIP

MAYABEE ARANNYA

One of life's most precious pleasures is trips to faraway lands with people you love the most. School trips, however, add people you don't love so much into the mix. And that is what makes them all the more interesting.

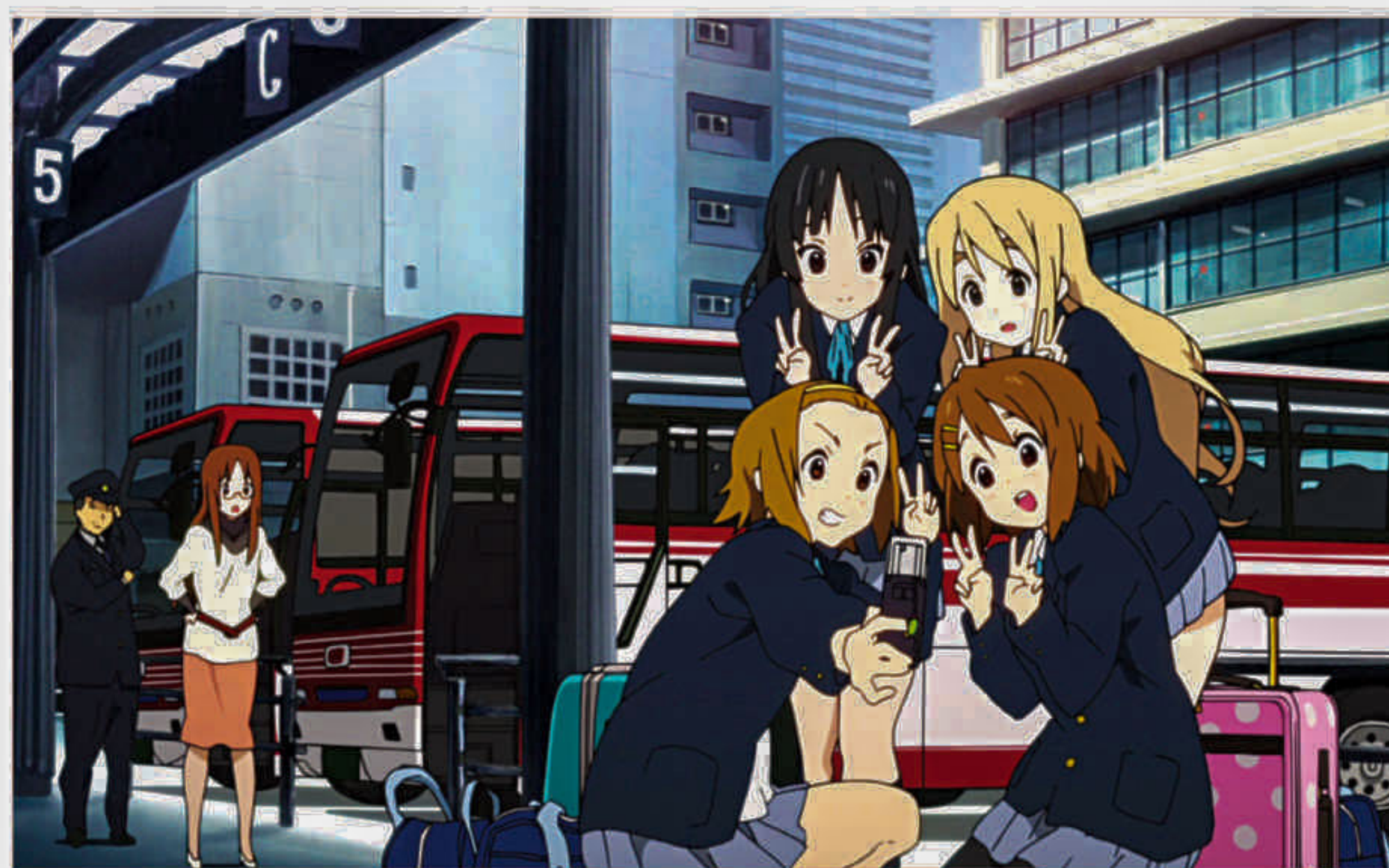
In most cases, like mine, you'll find these six types of people on any of your school trips.

THE LOVEBIRDS

No offence to people who love their significant others and want to spend every waking minute with them, but it is truly annoying when you're trying to relax on the bus and a couple next to you just can't stop giggling and hand-holding to their heart's content, even in front of teachers. There's a time and place for everything. You'll also probably find two of your friends disappearing every now and then. *Pro-tip: Best not to third-wheel on a trip.*

THE ONE WITH THE DSLR

If you're shy and want to make some new friends quickly, regardless of who should be friends with you, ask your parents to get you a DSLR. Trust me, it will be a huge investment. I mean, who doesn't



want topnotch photos and new profile pictures taken for FREE? All they'd need is a new best friend. And that best friend could be you. What are you even waiting for?

THE SELFIE FREAKS

Don't get me wrong, these people are "besties" with the DSLR guy too but they just prefer using his camera for selfies. Phones work just as well, DSLRs just up their game. Their logic: OMG, a tea

garden in Sylhet? That is so rare. I NEED to take 147 selfies in the same pose with it in the background and post them all on Instagram with #nature. And then share them on Facebook too, tagging 49 others. People need to see these; they're important.

TEAM TROUBLE

This is the "make it or break it" squad of the trip. They either make things a lot more enjoyable for everyone with their

deeds or end up going too far and ruining it. If it wasn't for these people, there would be no drawing on people's faces while they sleep on the bus. There would also be no people purposefully sleeping on your bed, leaving you the couch. I have real mixed feelings about them.

THE PEACEMAKERS

You can spot these people the moment you step on the bus or train or whatever. They either have headphones on and are looking out the window, or reading a book. You're probably going to forget they were on the trip by the end of the day. However, you *will* remember that one time they snapped at you for being so loud they couldn't read. They're nice people, though. They only bite when you annoy them too much.

FOOD FANATICS

These people have a drink in their hands 24/7. They're always on the lookout for food (preferably free). Open a packet of chips? They'll smell it from a mile away. Bought a new bottle of Coke? They need a sip or two. Stopped at a café? They'll follow you. Got a pack of gum? Run.

Mayabee Arannya is a confused soul still searching for a purpose. Give her advice on life at [facebook.com/mayabee.arannya](https://www.facebook.com/mayabee.arannya)