



USA Youth Debates, Inc.

FAQ's About 2017 USA-SWEDEN Youth Debates

What are the 2017 USA-SWEDEN Youth Debates?

The Debates are a bilateral program designed to celebrate critical thinking skills on a range of bilateral and broader international issues. The program will have a USA delegation consisting of 12 university students in the ages of 18-25 leaving Dec. 1 and returning December 7 . The program will be in Stockholm and Uppsala. Partners in Sweden include: Stockholm School of Economics International Student Association, Uppsala University, Stockholm University and Stockholm Debate Society.

What is the Debate format?

We utilize the “Caen-style” debate format, perfect for students new to debating, highly interactive and fun for students and judges alike. It features 3 vs 3 debating in five preliminary debates followed by Semifinals and Finals in two language divisions, Swedish and English.

Who is eligible?

Students in the ages of 18-25(not reaching 26 on or before December 6, 2017). Undergraduate and Graduate students are welcome. We will attempt to balance the language divisions with 15 teams in each division of Swedish and English. We anticipate having two American teams in Swedish and two in English. This means that the remaining 26 teams(13 in each division) will be apportioned to Swedish Partners with approximately 6 teams(3 English and 3 Swedish) for each Partner, SASSE, Uppsala, U of Stockholm and Stockholm Debate Society.

How does the tournament proceed?

We start on Monday, December 4 at Uppsala University. The Swedish Institute is looking into providing a bus to transport the group to Uppsala for the day. After Opening Ceremonies at the brand new state -of- the -art theatre, teams will move to campus rooms for the first ‘round’ of debate. A ‘round’ is one preliminary debate and we expect four rounds of debate on Monday. The results of Monday’s competition will be added to two

preliminary debates at Stockholm University on Tuesday, December 5. After the six preliminary debates, the top four teams in each language division will advance to Semifinals. Once those debates are finished, the top two teams in each division will advance to Finals. This will be followed with awards and a possible reception at U.S. Residence.

Do I need debate experience?

No! The format is easy to learn as we selected it to fit busy schedules while having a worthy forum for conducting overseas debating.

What are the topics?

Relevant and interesting subjects for students and judges. Many will be centered around the bilateral relationship between Sweden and the United States while others reflect broader international issues. A list of 20 potential topics will be released by November 5.

How will students be selected?

The selection process for teams will be up to the leadership of each program/school. U.S. students will be selected as follows:

1. Application 2. Three letters of recommendation 3. A one-page essay detailing why you would be a good representative of the United States in an overseas program 4. Telephone interviews. **Applications should be available at our website: usayouthdebates.org Sept 1. We expect to have our delegation selected by October 15.** If you have questions before the opening of applications, don't hesitate to contact us.

Why have debates?

This will be an opportunity in a bilateral program to discuss the future of not only U.S.-Sweden relations but also a variety of common issues on an international level. Debate is a kind of academic sport and the process seems to shape careers and in some cases, change lives. While it has some features common to Model United Nations, there are unique differences with this 3 vs 3 format.

What are the topics for USA-SWEDEN Youth Debates?

Approximately November 1, we will release the 15-20 potential topics to all participants. The topics will be the result of an online voting from all Partners. Students will have a month or so to think about the topics but the exact topics will not be known until just minutes before each 'round' of actual debate.(Please SEE Format)

Who are the debate judges?

University professors, diplomats from Sweden Foreign Ministry, U.S. Embassy will be invited to be judges. Also, interested people from Swedish Institute, American Chamber of Commerce-Sweden and others to hear bright and articulate young people from both countries discussing the future.

How will the program be funded?

The largest expense will be transportation and lodging for the USA delegation. Next, we have local transportation for all participants, a reception, use of rooms at one or more schools during the debates and awards for participants.

We have contacted five main organizations for financial support. These include a mix of public and private entities and all have a unique interest in U.S.-Sweden relations.

What is USA Youth Debate Inc?

USA Youth Debates Inc is a non profit 501(c) 3 organization founded in 2003 dedicated to promoting critical thinking through the debate process. No person in the organization will take a salary or stipend for our work. We simply enjoy the debate process and the potential for students to engage in constructive dialogue.

How is the program funded?

It is our expectation that we will receive grants from public and private donations but as of this date no decisions have been made regarding how much of the student trip(airfares from home city, lodging, most meals, transportation in Stockholm and Uppsala) will be available. It is a little early(August 29) to have it determined. Our past programs have been almost 100% funded, either through State Department issued grants and/or private foundations.



Uppsala University's new state-of-the-art Humanities Theatre will be the site for opening ceremonies on Monday December 4

More Information:

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