



NATIONAL HISPANIC INSTITUTE



PRESENTING THE 2017 TEXAS GREAT DEBATE

What do Austin College in Sherman, Texas, and the University of Texas at Austin have in common? Every year 600 high achieving freshmen convene at the National Hispanic Institute's Great Debates at these sites to address the challenging questions of a modern-day Latino community.

The Texas Great Debate introduces young people to the world of leadership. NHI identifies potential future leaders and engages them in learning experiences that expand their knowledge of the Latino community in the U.S. and Latin America. Increasing a student's communication effectiveness and critical thinking abilities is the chief focus of the Texas Great Debate.

Annually, twelve Texas regions organize and prepare debate teams of 36-40 freshman students for this exchange of ideas. These communities include Dallas, Houston, El Paso, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Brownsville, Fort Worth, Austin, Baytown, Laredo and the upper Rio Grande Valley (Pharr-San Juan Alamo, McAllen, Weslaco, Edinburg, Mission, and surrounding areas). Some teams attend the Texas Great Debate at Austin College in June, whereas others choose to attend its sister program, the Texas Ambassador Great Debate on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin in July.



WHY JOIN?

Students who participate in learning experiences of the National Hispanic Institute find themselves having several advantages over their peers. Furthering a student's language skills plays a big part in academic achievement, self confidence, and college admission test scores. However, the impact of the Great Debate goes much further. Students feel comfortable in highly competitive environments, they expand their knowledge of the world around them and gain a newfound appreciation for the Latino community. The academic caliber of their peer group also heightens, as do their social networks. Beyond the Great Debate, students are invited to continue their leadership journey by participating in our sophomore and junior programs, as well as volunteering their talents to develop younger peers. Students are also introduced to NHI's College Register member schools at our private college fairs. No better investment can be made for high school freshmen than getting involved with the National Hispanic Institute.

STUDENT TRAINING AND SUPERVISION

Students who gain admission to the NHI Great Debate receive training under the supervision of NHI certified local Project Administrators. These individuals mobilize local volunteers to assist with student training that begins in March of each year and continues through competition. Volunteers are both high school and undergraduate students who previously attended the Texas Great Debate as participants. They are required to undergo detailed background checks and training prior to being approved to participate. Training sessions last approximately three hours per session and are conducted on weekend afternoons to allow time for church and family life.

ENROLLING IN THE GREAT DEBATE

To participate in either the Texas Great Debate (Austin College) or Texas Ambassador Great Debate (UT Austin), applicants must reside in or nearby one of the regional communities listed here: Ft. Worth, Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Rio Grande Valley (Upper Valley), Brownsville, Laredo, Baytown, El Paso, Corpus Christi, and/or Austin.

To apply to the Great Debate in 2017, an applicant must be a 2016-2017 high school freshman and have at least a 3.0 GPA (85/100 scale; 8.5/10 scale) in core subject matter. Students must submit (email, mail or fax) their latest report card. NHI accepts final report cards from the previous year if the student has not yet received his/her first academic year report card. A competitive review process follows.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

- Students may apply at: www.nationalhispanicinstitute.org/apply/apply_2017/. Select your program, and submit a US\$20 application fee via credit card or e-check.
- Students may print out and submit a paper application by going to www.nationalhispanicinstitute.org/forms. Download, complete and send the PDF application with the \$20 application fee made payable to "NHI" to: "NHI, P.O. Box 220, Maxwell, TX 78656 USA". For FEDEX/UPS/DHL, ship to: "NHI, 472 FM 1966, Maxwell, TX, 78656, USA".

APPLICATION DEADLINES

- Early Admissions: **August 15 - October 17**
- Regular Admissions: **October 18 - December 5**
- Late Admissions: **December 6 - Capacity**

TUITION AND FEES

The Great Debate tuition is \$595USD, which includes a \$20 application processing fee. This amount covers meals, housing, materials, training and tuition. Once the student receives notice of admission via email, the family should make arrangements to make a \$150USD security deposit within 10 days. The final tuition amount is due within 30 days of submitting the deposit. Students can also make arrangements with NHI's business office for an alternate payment plan. The tuition includes housing at the university campus, meals, and tournament materials. Other costs include \$15 reading materials and transportation to and from the Great Debate (organized by the local project).

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SPONSORS

Admitted students are encouraged to visit with their respective schools, local businesses and civic organizations to seek financial support. NHI is a private, 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization that provides tax receipts to donors.



NHI CONTACT INFORMATION

Texas Great Debate Director

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P.O. Box 220, Maxwell, TX 78656 USA
M-F, 9:00am-12:00noon; 1:30pm-6:00pm CDT
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LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Austin

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Baytown

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Corpus Christi

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Laredo

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Rio Grande Valley (Upper Rio Grande Valley)

Christopher Monsivais | Cmonsivais@nhimail.com

San Antonio

Anita Fernandez | Anita@nhimail.com

Tip of Texas (Brownsville, Cameron County)

Tino Villarreal | Tino@nhimail.com

2017 TEXAS GREAT DEBATES

Texas Great Debate
Austin College, Sherman, Texas
June 8-11, 2017



Texas Ambassador Great Debate
University of Texas at Austin
July, 2017

