



Embassy of the United States Of America

Press Release

Oslo, January 17, 2008

Essay Contest: "The Norwegian - U.S. Friendship"

The US embassy is offering Norwegian students the opportunity of winning a three week cultural stay in the United States. All that is required is to write an essay on Norwegian-American relations with the following title: *The Norwegian-US Friendship -- How I see its Future.*

The winner of the contest will travel to the U.S. to take part in the Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Summer Institute at Wake Forest University in North Carolina for 3 1/2 weeks in June/July/August of 2008.

This U.S exchange initiative fosters friendships between young people in America and their counterparts in Europe and Central Asia. Activities will include leadership and media training, collaborative project development, community service, educational travel, and follow-up planning.

Eligibility

- The contest is open to all Norwegian students aged 15-19 (born between 30 July 1989 and 5 July 1993)
- English fluency
- Relatives of employees of the U.S. Embassy in Oslo are not eligible to participate

The essay must be

- The original work of the student
- Written in English
- Between 500 and 750 words

Essays will be judged according to their

- Originality
- Clear communication
- Good organization of ideas
- Convincing arguments supported with specific examples

Please adhere to the following timeline

- Essays must be sent in before February 20, 2008 to irc@usa.no
- Finalists will be notified by February 25, 2008 and will be invited to a follow-up interview in person or by phone.
- The interview will focus on academic and community involvement, interest in the USA and participation in this summer program.
- The winner's name will be made public after February 29, 2008

Please send the following information together with the essay to irc@usa.no

- Last name
- First name
- Full address (including number, street, city, and postal code)
- Home telephone number (cell phone number if any)
- E-mail address
- Date of birth (month/day/year)
- City of birth
- Country of birth
- Name School/College, field of study (if applicable)

NOTE! The applicant needs to be able to come to the U.S. Embassy in Oslo a couple of times before and after the program.

All questions and inquiries should be directed to irc@usa.no.

For more information about the project, please visit: <http://diplomats.blogs.bftf.org/>