

## **Ambassadors in Sneakers 2017: A Young Leaders' Transatlantic Summer Academy on Human Rights**

**What is it?** The Young Leaders' Transatlantic Summer Academy on Human Rights is a four-week educational program (split in two trips of two weeks each) which brings together youth councils from Germany and the USA in the summer of 2017. The central focus will be on the topic of human rights. It is against this background that participants will learn about both countries' political structures and international networking. While travelling together in the USA and Germany, the young leaders will become familiar with important places and institutions that are significant for developing and defending human rights. At a time when thousands are fleeing their homelands due to political/religious persecution, war, and famine, human rights is a topic which young people of today often question. During their trips, they will meet activists, people affected by recent events, media representatives, speakers, and politicians in Germany and the USA, and will have the opportunity to learn from them and with them, thus helping gain a fuller perspective on the issues at hand.

**Who can go?** In 2017 members of local or regional youth councils or youth parliaments from the German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg as well as representatives of U.S. youth councils, mayor's advisory youth councils, or youth committees in Georgia are encouraged to apply. Applicants should be between the ages of 16 and 20. Twelve young people from Baden-Wuerttemberg and twelve young people from Georgia will take part in the project.

**Where and when is it?** The Transatlantic Summer Academy 2017 is set up in four parts on two trips.:  
Trip 1: Atlanta/Georgia & New York City (Sat. Jun. 03 – Sun. Jun. 18)  
Trip 2: Tuebingen/Baden-Wuerttemberg & Berlin ( Sat. Jul. 22 – Sun. Aug. 6)

### **Tentative Schedule 2017**

- Part 1 – Atlanta, GA: Atlanta State Capitol, Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum, Amnesty International Atlanta, Goethe Cultural Center, CNN Center, Atlanta Association of Student Councils, King Center for Nonviolent Social Change, workshop at the Center for Civil and Human Rights, ...
- Part 2 – New York City: UNO, meetings with the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth and the Commission on Human Rights, Ellis Island Museum, neighborhood visits, ...
- Part 3 – Baden-Wuerttemberg: the Weltethos Institut Tuebingen, the State Government (*Landtag*) of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Southwest Broadcasting (SWR); workshops "Intercultural Competency and Human Rights Activism" and "The Political Systems of Germany and the USA", ...
- Part 4 – Berlin: German Parliament (*Bundestag*), Allied Museum, German Institute for Human Rights, Stasi Museum, German Federal Foreign Office, meeting with German UN youth delegates, Young Transatlantic Initiative, workshop with the Archive for Youth Cultures (together with young refugees), action planning workshop, ...

**Goals:** The “ Ambassadors in Sneakers Young Leaders’ Transatlantic Summer Academy on Human Rights” will do the following:

- support politically active young people in their dedication to human rights and transatlantic perspectives
- offer insights into the political systems of Germany and the USA
- awaken greater sensitivity for both countries’ self-perception and image abroad
- promote transatlantic exchanges of viewpoints about current and future-oriented topics such as immigration, refugee relocation, big data/privacy protection, TTIP, gender debates, etc.
- combine politics, social engagement, meeting people, and having fun together

### The German-American Institute:

The project is carried out by the German-American Institute in Tuebingen (*Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut Tuebingen / d.a.i.*), a bi-national educational and cultural organization that provides the city of Tuebingen as well as the larger surrounding region with information about cultural, social, political and economic developments in the USA and in Germany. For more than 60 years it has been dedicated to transatlantic exchange, and still continues to offer events presenting a wide range of perspectives in a variety of formats while keeping dialogue and real-life encounters between people at the center of what it does. The d.a.i. makes it possible for learners and teachers to meet each other face-to-face and to gain authentic insights into American culture and lifestyles in the context of various projects. Some of these include the “Rent an American” project, which sends young Americans as short-term guests to schools in Baden-Wuerttemberg, a student exchange program between German and American high schools called “Ambassadors in Sneakers – Part I,” and the “English Access Micro-scholarship Program,” which provides intensive support in English and social skills to 14 students from vocational high schools. The d.a.i. also organizes camps, youth trips, educational trips for teachers, and much more. The institute is supported by the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, the German Federal Foreign Office, the city of Tuebingen, the U.S. Embassy, and over 1,300 members.

### Funding:

The costs for our project (incl. program, organization, travel, room & board, etc.) are about 200.000 EUR / USD 214.000 per year. More than half is covered through the Transatlantic Program by the Federal Republic of Germany. Other grants were provided by the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports in Baden-Wuerttemberg, as well as by Demokratiezentrum Baden-Wuerttemberg and Georgia based Halle Foundation. The German-American Institute and the Goethe Zentrum – German Cultural Center Atlanta cover great parts of material costs and organizational costs. Participants pay USD 600 each, and are asked to engage in further fundraising activities for our project.

### Project Partners and Supporters:



### Contact:

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