Suggestions on How to Find and Select SIA Participants

Local Leagues choose their own method for selecting the student to attend the SIA conference. It doesn’t have to be a long or formal process and it is a decision made by you and your League. In the past few years, local Leagues have used any of the following methods:

- written application form with a committee or League member to select the student
- written application form followed by an interview with a committee or League member to select the student
- selection/recommendation by the High School Principal and/or Social Studies/Government teacher (no evaluation by the League)
- essay contest

No matter what method you choose to pick your student, there is a sample letter or form that you can borrow from one of your fellow Leagues! Some of those samples are attached at the end of this report.

Ideas for finding a student:

- Have SIA brochures available at your Voter Registration and Debate tables
- Contact the student who attended last year’s SIA and ask them to help advertise in their school
- Put a notice in your League bulletin; one of your members may have a child, grandchild, niece, nephew, paper boy/girl, neighbor or other family member or family friend who is or who has a high school student
- Put a notice in your community news section of your newspaper
- Contact your PTA President and ask them to make an announcement at their next meeting (name generally can be found on school website)
- Contact the Youth Coordinator at your local YMCA or YWCA
- Call the High School Principal, Guidance Office or Social Studies Supervisor and set up meeting, send information and/or discuss the program with them (find names and contact info on school district website – google district name to find website)
- Call the state office and we will find a local contact in the schools for you with help from one of our student program sponsors, New York State United Teachers (NYSUT)
- Ask the school to announce it on the morning or afternoon announcements at school
- Post a brightly colored notice on the bulletin board at the local library, school library, guidance office, grocery store, etc...
- Put an advertisement in the local weekly or free newspaper
- Contact the youth group at local churches or synagogues

To find the contacts at the local schools, “google” the name of the school district to find the district’s website. On the website, click on the high school and then you should be able to find the contact information for the Principal, the Guidance or Counseling Center, and even the Social Studies Supervisor or Department Chair. Sending a letter, SIA brochure and flyers to these people, followed by a phone call is the best way to get them interested in the program.