

Sample Secular Student Alliance Project Grant Application

Contact information for discussing this proposal

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Information about your group

Name of Organization: *Freethinker Alliance of Wild 80's Hair University*
Campus: *Wild 80's Hair University*
Web site of organization: *http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2204543896*
Number of members in organization: *34*
Date organization was founded: *9/3/2007*
Constitution: either give us the URL of your constitution on your web site, or cut and paste it into the text box.

http://www.secularstudents.org/docs

Information about your project - please be as specific as possible in this section.

Project name: *Debate: Does God Exist?*
Start date of project: *2008-11-01*
End date of project: *2009-02-12*

Description of the project:

We are sponsoring a moderated debate between Dan Barker and Kyle Butt (from Apologetics Press) for our Darwin Day Bicentennial celebration at the Wild 80's Hair University. Mr. Butt is arranging for a Christian production company to film and produce the event, with the agreement that the debate itself will be in no way edited for content.

Goals for the project:

What influence do you expect the project to have? How do you expect this project to benefit your group?

I think the event could have a far reaching influence on our fairly conservative campus. My hope is that the event will attract people who rarely critically analyze their convictions in regards to religion. I think this debate will leave those in attendance with a broader respect for secular people because they will realize that we have good reasons for being secular. Also, Barker's debate skill and experience will be beneficial to our cause. I think that no religious person will leave the debate without some sort of cognitive dissonance about the disparity between reality and religion. Increasing skepticism is bound to help produce more freethinkers in the long run.

Lastly, I believe it is important to hold more events like this in the Bible belt. It's time that we infiltrate the place that needs it the most - the highly religious South. Having this in the capital of South Carolina will hopefully send a signal that secularism is growing and reaching out.

Your Capacity:

Please let us know if your group has executed a project like this before. If not, what have you done? What steps are you taking to make sure the project is successful?

We've never done a debate, but we've held smaller events. Last year we had a fairly simple Darwin Day. We hosted a biology professor in a lecture about the implications of evolution on religion. We had about 65 people come with fairly little advertising.

This year we held a screening of the film "Jesus Camp," with a following short lecture on cults from our advisor (a sociology professor) and a big group discussion. We had about 50 or 60 people, again with fairly minimal advertising.

Event Participation:

If this is a public event (lecture, debate), please let us know your anticipated attendance. If this is a group project/activity, please let us know how many members/individuals you expect will participate.

Our target audience goal is 250 people inside one of the largest venues on campus (the Russell House ballroom, which has been booked for this event). We hope to get other outside recognition and attention from any media outlets that we can. Plus if the debate is filmed and produced, it can be seen and distributed on a wider scale and reach people who were not there.

Publicity Plan (for public events only):

If your project will be a public event, please include your publicity plan, including a timeline.

This event, however, warrants our full attention and effort in advertising to meet our ambitious goal of 250 people. We have already completed the flier for the debate (done by the professional campus designer who does all of the big Carolina Productions fliers - CP brings in all the big acts on our campus)

We plan to contact all the local and campus media in hopes that they will cover it.

We have also booked the biggest advertising board in our student union for the week of the debate. We will buy a larger version of the flier and post that on the board, along with other eye catching materials. This board is located in one of the highly trafficked areas of the building and should bring a lot of attention to the debate.

Cooperating parties:

Are other organizations participating in this project or assisting with its funding?

Other than SSA and FFRF working to bring Dan Barker, no one else is providing money for the debate. I worked it out so Kyle Butt is funded through Apologetics Press. Also, the production company that wants to film the debate have said they will do so at their own expense (with the understanding that all parties will own the copyright when the production is complete). Our only expenses are the debate setup (microphones, the stage, podiums, etc) and advertising.

Project Budget Information

Total project cost: \$300

Project Budget:

Please be as specific as possible. Include your expenses as well as **all** other sources of funding that you have received, have applied for, or are considering. Please mention any funding you are getting from your own group's operating budget, university funding, fundraisers, other local or national organizations, etc. You do not need to have funding from all these sources to be eligible for an SSA project grant.

Expenses:

\$30.00 - General user fees for the venue

\$28.00 - Stage (must be set up) - this is the main stage with the podiums

\$14.00 - Stage (in the back, for the camera crew)

\$35.00 - House Sound fee

\$20.00 - Wireless Microphone Setup, for the moderator table and questions from the audience

\$7.00 - Extra wired microphone for a podium

\$25.00 - Extra lighting for the stage

\$50.00 - Solicitation fees for book sales

\$50.00 - Large posters for advertising

\$40.00 - Color fliers for advertising

Incomes:

\$100.00 - Funds from group operating budget (drawn from university funding)

\$50.00 - Donation from local off-campus group

\$150.00 - Proposed grant from Secular Student Alliance

University Funding:

We're very interested in learning how our groups get funding from their universities. Please provide us with a little more detail about your university funding. How much did you apply for, and how much did you receive? Were there any unusual circumstances? If you did not apply for university funding, please let us know why.

At Wild 80's Hair University, funding is available to student groups through an annual budget allocation project. We began planning this project after that distribution of funds, and so we weren't able to ask for the funding for this project at that time. We are using some of our group's general operating funds to support this project.

In future years, we will plan ahead far enough to request these funds from the university.

Amount requested from SSA: \$150