



the World  
Scholar's Cup®



**Learn. Discover. Lead.**



Inaugural rounds in Scandinavia, the Baltics, Chile, Ghana, Bulgaria, Somalia, and Italy.

First-ever "Primary Round" held in Dubai. Older scholars terrified.

1000 scholars from 30 countries meet at the 2012 Global Round in Bangkok.

"Scholar's Ball" becomes a mainstay of the program. "Nerd prom" nickname follows.

First rounds in Dubai, Beijing, Australia, and former Soviet Georgia.

Nanyang Girls School wins its first global round, conditions other teams to wear yellow jackets.

Scholar's Cup staff discovers the importance of converting electricity.

First regional rounds in Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, and Arizona.

Alpaca defeats emu, elected program mascot.

2014

2013

2012

2011

2010

2009

2008

2007

2400 scholars gather for the 2014 Global Round in Singapore.

New "introductory" rounds established all over the world, from Geneva to Perth.

First annual Tournament of Champions hosted by Yale University. Live alpaca attends.

WSC staff learns it is possible to miss a flight by falling asleep at the gate.

Canadian novelist Guy Kay keynotes Global Round in Shanghai, leaps into a pile of alpacas.

First Scholar's Show erupts spontaneously in Dubai while WSC staff is lost in a taxi.

First Scholar's Scavenge leads students to sing and become Facebook friends on the streets of Singapore.

The United States, Singapore, and Korea meet at the first global round.

World Scholar's Cup founded.





**New skills.  
New knowledge.  
New friends.**

The artist Austin Kleon once advised, “Draw the art you want to see, play the music you want to hear, write the books you want to read, build the products you want to use.” In creating the World Scholar’s Cup, my team and I kept that idea in mind: to design a program we wish we could have taken part in.

That’s why the World Scholar’s Cup may look like a competition, but isn’t one at all. It’s a celebration of learning. It unites many subjects, because before we choose to specialize, we need to see the big picture. It challenges teams to work together, because there’s nothing harder or more inspiring than knowing someone else depends on you. And we deal with serious global issues without ever taking ourselves too seriously, because we believe that, before we can fall in love with learning, we must find the fun at learning’s heart.

Our mission is one of inclusive enrichment, bringing together schools of every kind of and students of all backgrounds. We hope you will be among them. Whether you join us just for an introductory event or continue all the way to our annual conference at Yale University, you won’t just be discovering new subjects and practicing new skills.

You’ll be joining a community of scholars and leaders that will last a lifetime.

*Du Byg*

Daniel Berdichevsky  
Founder and Alpaca-in-Chief



Each year, all teams explore and debate a current global theme—in 2015, **An Imperfect World**. You'll look at selected topics in Science, Social Studies, Art, Music, Literature, History, and more. This year's topics range from **Disease and Public Health** and **The History of Cheating** to **Crime and Justice**.

Don't worry about figuring out what to research: we provide detailed outlines for every subject. They'll be the starting points for all your preparation and discussion, from the regional round to the global finals.

# A New Theme Each Year





# Scholar's Facts

Founded	2007
Mascot	Alpaca
Annual Final Host	Yale University
# of countries	50+
# of schools	1500+
Team size	3 students
Teams per school	Unlimited
Main Divisions	Jr. (10-14) & Sr. (15+)
Regional Dates	See website for details
Preparation time	2 days to a lifetime
How to prepare?	Online exploration, lively debate, ample snacks

**The non-profit World Scholar's Cup is dedicated to inclusive enrichment for students of all backgrounds.**



**Each team debates three times**, on motions across all the subjects, from policy to poetry. You may be arguing whether parents should have access to surveillance cameras at schools—or whether women make better superheroes.

Debate is your chance to apply all that you've learned to make the strongest case you can. And, win or not, after each debate, you'll give the other team feedback on how to improve.



# Team Debate



## Countdown

Each of you will speak up to 4 minutes. But first, you'll have 15 minutes to research your argument, with full access to the Internet. Use your time—and choose your sources—wisely!



## For debaters new and old.

Two-thirds of our students have never debated before; over half are ESL learners. The rest sign up *because* they're debaters. For new debaters, it's a great introduction; for experienced debaters, it's a challenging new style.

Target skills: teamwork, research, public speaking, intimidating the opposition

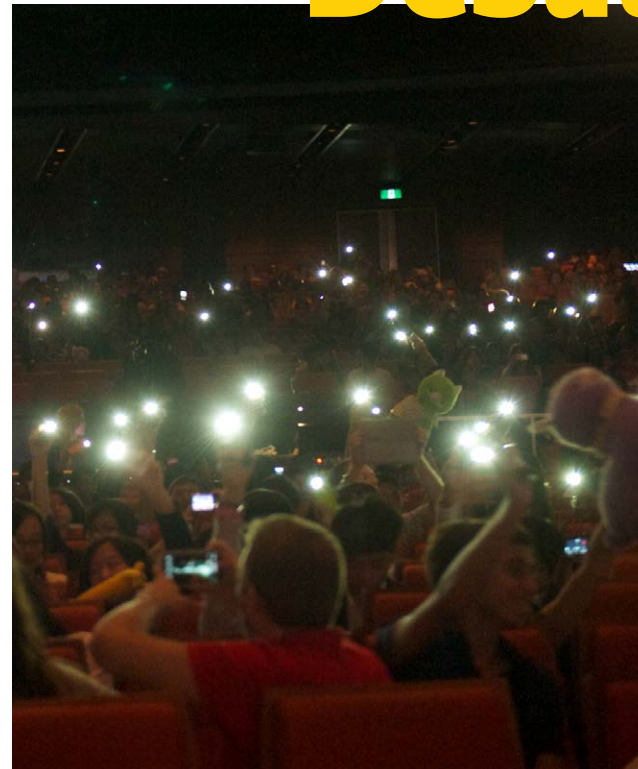
**Strange but true: the teams you debate against are the ones you'll become closest to.**



**There are winners and there are more winners.** After each round, winning teams face other winners—and non-winners other non-winners. The result: the teams with the least experience have the opportunity to gain it, and everyone becomes a better debater by the end of the day.



## Debate Showcase



### **Not your grandfather's Debate Finals.**

At most debate tournaments, the top two teams face off in a high-stakes final round—while most everyone else goes home. Not so at the World Scholar's Cup.

Instead, we select the top speakers from each delegation and form new mixed teams. These already strong speakers face a brand new challenge: working with brand new teammates.

These all-star teams lead the whole community in debating and discussing a tough motion—check out the example below. Afterwards, members of the audience, students and adults alike, can volunteer to join the conversation, perhaps supporting their teammates on stage. Or defying them.



**Resolved:** That students should be allowed to take medication to improve their World Scholar's Cup scores.



**It's the least exciting event—until you take home the medals.**

The Scholar's Challenge looks like any other multiple-choice test, but with an alpaca-powered twist: you can mark more than one answer per question. The fewer you mark, the more points you can earn. While the event may not be fun, its outcome is: apply your knowledge of the six subjects successfully and you'll win prizes like a gold medal in art, or a silver in science—or both. Neck braces available at check-in.

## Written Events

### Collaborative Writing

Debate with your pen. You'll be given three statements, each from a different subject area, and asked to choose one to argue for or against. You'll first have 30 minutes to prepare with your teammates, then an hour by yourself to compose the most persuasive essay possible, then 15 more minutes to work together at the end. Here's the catch: each member of your team has to choose a different topic. Bring straws.

**Target skills: collaboration, research, writing, persuasion, time management**





**Every team in the theater. Every team with a clicker.  
Every question harder than the one before.**

Your team will work together to solve analytic questions and multimedia challenges. Click your answers before time runs out, and don't be surprised if you're asked to connect a poem you studied to a clip from *The Big Bang Theory*. Bowlzinga.

# Scholar's Bowl

### It's loud

You might even hear a team shout the wrong answer—hoping you'll click it.

### It's strategic

What will you and your teammates do when you disagree?  
**Target skills: teamwork, applied thinking, clicking**



**"It's not the first team to answer that gets credit. You're racing the clock. But the clock is fast."**

**We like to say that we only pretend to be a competition.** That we're actually about enrichment and community-building. And that's very true. But part of pretending to be a competition is holding a very real awards ceremony in which we celebrate your achievements as some of the world's leading young scholars. Which, if you've joined this program, is exactly what you are. Even when our emcee is mispronouncing your name.

# Awards Ceremony




## Individual honors

Earn distinctions in every subject and every event—including trophies, certificates, and medals of various colors and kinds.

## Team prizes

Win trophies (and infamy) for your achievements as a team. Photos encouraged. Long speeches? Not so much.



**“Bring your alpacas  
everywhere. Trust  
me. It will help.”**

**Shela Usadi - Team Indonesia**



## Participate locally. Or go the distance.

Even regional rounds are global: you may face a team from across your town—or continent. A number of top teams at each regional event earn invitations to their choice of the Global Round or the Mini-Global Round.

No regional round near you? Contact us: you'll be offered a special chance to come represent your country, then return home and host a round of your own.

# Local & Global



## Special Guests

You can always look forward to special speakers at the Global Round: from award-winning author Guy Kay in 2010 to postmodern French composer Sasha Zamler-Carhart in 2015. You'll have a chance to ask them questions and to meet them one-on-one.



## ToC at Yale

Bring together the best of the World Scholar's Cup with a world-leading university, and you'll discover our **Tournament of Champions**, hosted by the Yale International Relations Association.

The "ToC" is more than a second Global Round: it's a chance to experience life and learning as a student at Yale University. You'll also meet professors, U.S. Senators, and, best of all, an actual alpaca.





## What's with all the goats?

They're not goats, they're alpacas, and they're the mascot of the World Scholar's Cup. Every scholar receives one. Or two, or twenty. When they're happy, they say *pwaa*. So does our staff. And so will you.

# Scholar's Show

## Break a #2 pencil.

The talent show is completely optional—just a chance for you to share something with the Scholar's Cup community, even if you're not an experienced performer. Whether it's a student from Singapore pretending to be President Obama, or the team from Sofia introducing us to traditional Bulgarian dance, every single performance is unique. (Unless you're singing "Let it Go", but at least the audience sings along.)

"The flood of pwaas, hugs, and selfies cannot express my thanks to you for this entire WSC journey, from Jakarta to Yale University. This roller coaster ride is unparalleled... I've met so many new friends, and the exposure to so many great people is really impactful."

Sabrina Hartono - National High Jakarta School



**"I thought the performances were pretty terrible.  
But my students had a great time."**

Chris Yetman, Canyon del Oro High School



# Scholar's Scavenge

**Teams: twelve. Facebook photos: thousands.**

On the first night of the Global Round, you'll be teamed up with 11 fellow scholars from 11 other countries to undertake a series of odd challenges. You may have to reenact a movie scene in public, or force your coach to do a push-up. You'll do all this while exploring a new city together. It's a great chance to make new friends from around the world—and a lot less awkward than a welcome dance. Even when you're hanging upside down from a tree.

Target skills: icebreaking, persuading people to embarrass themselves





## Scholars call it Nerd Prom.

Bring your dresses and your tuxes, but leave the limos at home. Then dance the night away with fellow scholars from over thirty other countries. Plus, there's ice cream. And balloons. And also an alarmingly high population density.



**"I was already open-minded before, but making a new friend from Malaysia and another from Iran surely changes things - for the better!"**

Bar Atiya, Leo Baeck Institute

*Bar helped lead Israel's first-ever World Scholar's Cup team to the 2010 Global Round in Shanghai.*

# Scholar's Ball

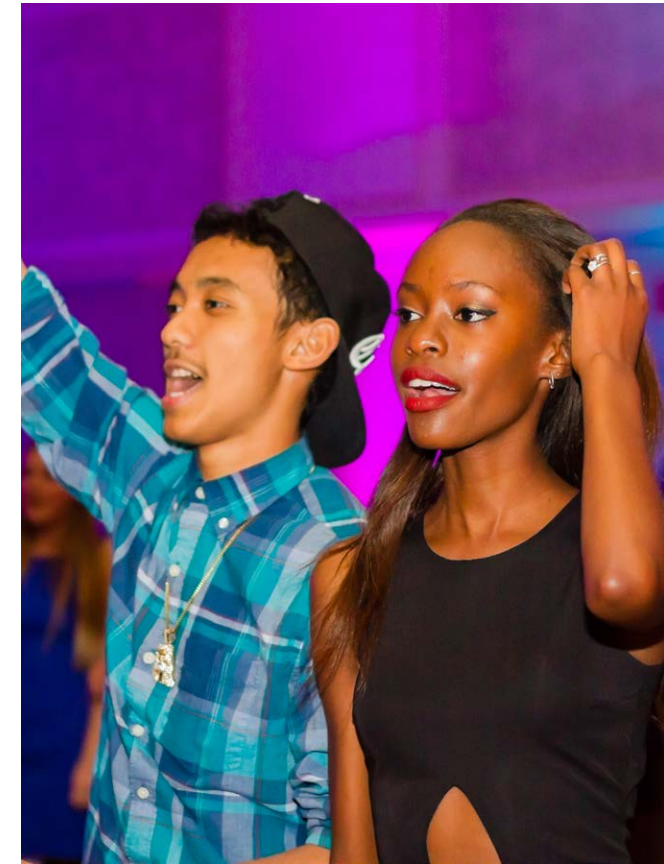


## Debate what to Deb-eat.

Whether it's a bento box or a gala Thanksgiving dinner, we promise to keep you (and your brain!) well-fed.

## Get some rest.

For the Global Round, stay at your choice of recommended hotels: they're all affordable, clean, and fun.





**New in 2015!**

**Primary**

**Division**

**The children are our future (scholars).**

In 2014, we held our first round exclusively for primary students—and our youngest scholars seized the chance to learn beyond their years! They practiced skills such as collaboration, peer feedback, and public speaking at an age when these things may not come easily, but last forever. We'll be holding more primary rounds around the world this year, from Dubai to Jakarta. Let us know if you'd like to host one for your community!



**"I am awestruck by the skill and confidence demonstrated by these young students. Thank you for an incredible day!" - Suzanne Munn, GEMS WSO Dubai**



# Scholar's Camp

Our camps are more than a fun new way to prepare for your next regional round: they're self-contained all-around learning experiences. Whether you're pondering the hero's journey or modeling the life cycle of a tree, you'll be involved in exercises and seminars that connect all six subjects, and you'll practice **leadership**, **writing**, and **debating** skills you'll use every day of your life, potentially to your parents' dismay.

Work with dedicated teachers to explore **global issues** from this year's theme and beyond.

Practice team debate, persuasive writing, problem-solving, and **alpaca-hunting**.



## Incamparable hosts.

World Scholar's Camp hosts have included top universities and schools around the world, among them Yale-NUS College, Sinarmas World Academy, and the American University in Dubai. Interested in hosting a camp? Contact us to learn more.

## Summer is coming.

In 2016, join us for our second Global Camp, just prior to the Mini-Global Round in Prague.





**“The days I spent at Regionals and Globals have been the best of my life. I’ve become friends with fellow scholars all over the world, taken part in extraordinary academic competition, and truly developed a passion for learning. In conclusion, I absolutely love WSC, and can’t wait until the ToC at Yale... my team aims to finish with a bang!”**

Alex Prior-Wandesforde, Tanglin Trust School



## Get Involved.

### **Form a team at your school.**

If there isn't a program yet, don't worry! It just takes a single team of three to get started. Learn more at [www.scholarscup.org](http://www.scholarscup.org), or email us for help.

### **Attend a regional round.**

Attend a round near you or travel to one abroad. Every regional round is open to the entire world.

### **Host an introductory event.**

Schools around the world host local rounds and invite friends and rivals to participate. We'll be there to support you every step of the way.

### **Sponsor or volunteer.**

As a non-profit organization, we depend on the generosity of donors and volunteers to make our program possible.

**“One of my students wasn't the strongest academically when she entered the program, but is now in the upper percentile of her class. The World Scholar's Cup instilled in her self-discipline and a love of learning.” - Nigel Kaw, Nanyang Girls High School, Singapore**

**“Not only were the topics extremely engaging and unique, the whole idea behind the program was thrilling: debating with other international delegates, furiously scribbling essays on challenging topics (like the Psychology of War!), clenching the clicker tightly and getting all ready to press the buttons...”**

Nicole Tan - Raffles Girls School

# Unforgettable.



Pick your team carefully. If you're good at math and science, you may want teammates strong in art and literature.

**“Without teamwork, the show can't go on.” - Jess Hariyanto, PSB School**



**“Since I started teaching 17 years ago, I have never encountered an opportunity as extraordinary, or a learning experience as comprehensive. My students have learnt as much through WSC each year as they have through their entire school curriculum, and I now find it hard to imagine a year without WSC in it.**

**You talk about alpaca nation as a big family, and, whilst that could so easily sound platitudinous, I think it is true: it is no hollow cliché when I say that, to us, it genuinely feels like home, and you guys somehow (and impossibly) feel like friends to us all.”**

Matthew Savage - Bromsgrove International School

“No one comes into the World Scholar’s Cup  
already an expert in every area and a master of every skill.  
Scholars must discover new interests and practice new skills.”



**World Scholar's Cup**

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