

MODEL UNITED NATIONS PARENT HANDBOOK



LOS ANGELES YMCA Model United Nations Parent Information

Greetings Parents and Delegates,

Thank you for your interest in YMCA Model United Nations!

It won't be long until we are signing on and discussing global cultures and affairs, conflicts and solutions. Below you will find some important details. As always let us know if you have questions or comments. It is important to note that due to Covid-19, citywide conferences, trainings, and cultural events will all be virtual this year.

WHY MODEL UNITED NATIONS?

In Los Angeles, an informed and participating electorate, which shares a common value system, is crucial for building strong communities. Teens need to understand that they can have an effect on their communities, their cities, and their country, through their actions. YMCA Model United Nations strives to give teens both the tools and the values, which will empower them to solve problems within the established system of government. Participants in YMCA Model United Nations are provided an arena to test their beliefs, to share their frustrations, to examine their ethics, and broaden their knowledge.

WHAT IS MODEL UNITED NATIONS?

The Los Angeles YMCA's Model United Nations (MUN) program is a citywide teen educational program involving middle school students, in a three-month ~~experience~~. While engaged through the YMCA, teens are given the opportunity to discuss international issues, discover other cultures, develop life enhancing skills, and make new friends. The program also helps strengthen independence and self-confidence for their personal futures.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Teens in the Los Angeles YMCA's Model United Nations program participate in weekly delegation meetings with other teens in their local area, as well as two citywide conferences with teens from all over Los Angeles, and three cultural and social events with teens from all over Los Angeles, as well as from other parts of California.

Where do participants meet?

Delegations are formed through YMCAs, schools, churches, or other youth-affiliated programs. Delegations are encouraged to meet weekly. All delegations have at least one adult advisor who meets the volunteer criteria of the local YMCA that the delegation is affiliated with, as well as any regulations set forth by the LA YMCA. Because of ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, all meetings for this program year will be held virtually.

What do the ambassadors do during meetings?

Within their delegations, MUN ambassadors research and debate issues of international importance, establish policies, treaties and resolutions. Ambassadors are assigned to countries, and will work in small groups to learn about issues facing their assigned countries, including disputes between countries, peacekeeping efforts, border crises, stabilizing financial markets and dealing with hunger, disease and poverty. As they learn, the ambassadors will work in their groups to create solutions to these issues.

In addition to country projects, time is included in each meeting for current event discussions and debate, public speaking practice, and social time.

What do the ambassadors do during conferences?

During the First Conference, ambassadors will present their country projects to other MUN ambassadors from all over Los Angeles. There will be sessions that focus on current events, public speaking and multi-cultural appreciation. Curriculum includes a thorough orientation of the overall program, instruction on how to prepare for the second conference, and game time with other MUN ambassadors.

At the Second Conference, ambassadors put their research and new-found knowledge to work as they present their solutions to problems facing their countries. For this conference, presentations will be ranked, and the highest ranked presentations will move on to a final round the following day.

WHEN ARE THE LOCAL MEETINGS?

Local Meetings will happen week nights, generally between 5pm and 8pm. Each local group sets its own meeting schedule, so it is important to check with your local branch to find out when local delegation meetings are taking places.

WHEN ARE THE CONFERENCE MEETINGS & CULTURAL EVENTS?

CULTURAL EVENT 1: Tuesday, March 9th, 6:30-7:30PM

CULTURAL EVENT 2: Tuesday, April 6th, 6:30-7:30PM

CULTURAL EVENT 3: Tuesday, May 11th, 6:30-7:30PM

CONFERENCE 1: Saturday, May 1st, times TBD

CONFERENCE 2: Saturday, May 22nd AND Sunday, May 23rd, times TBD

** Please note, all MUN Ambassadors are expected to attend all cultural events, and all conference days.

HOW ADULTS ARE INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM

DELEGATION ADVISORS

Delegation Advisors provide leadership to their own local youth delegations in preparing them for their participation in the program. They may attend virtual meetings/conferences. When we resume in-person conferences, they also accompany their delegation to the various conferences, providing direct supervision to their delegation.

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Each year the Los Angeles YMCA recruits' volunteers to serve as "staff" to the different program areas. Over 150 volunteers from throughout the state plan and conduct activities, advise teen delegates on their roles, and in general assist the Director in the operation of the overall program. The volunteer staff includes teachers, college students, attorneys, business executives, YMCA professionals, media experts, and elected officials and their staff.