



"I've gained confidence in my abilities, developed my leadership skills and opened my eyes to all that there is outside my little bubble. My life has changed for the better because of MUN. It gave me friends and a purpose."

— Annika, 11th grader



WHAT IF



YOUNG PEOPLE RAN THE WORLD?

AT YMCA MODEL UNITED NATIONS, THEY DO.



WHAT IS MODEL UNITED NATIONS?

Model United Nations (MUN) is a hands-on civic learning program where students in grades 7-12 take on the role of diplomat from one of 193 countries and engage in respectful discussions about the state of the world.

MUN starts in late fall when students join or form a delegation at their school. Delegations meet regularly to research their countries, prepare for their program areas, and practice their presentation skills. In late March, student delegates from Minnesota and Wisconsin gather in downtown Minneapolis for the annual MUN conference, where they meet in groups to discuss and debate global issues, pass resolutions, form diplomatic alliances, and draft legal opinions, all while practicing cooperation and diplomacy.

But it's not all work! The conference includes two nights at the Minneapolis Marriott Hotel, the chance to explore a variety of food options in the skyways, and fun evening activities including games and crafts, trivia, bingo, karaoke, and a talent show.

WHAT PROGRAM AREAS CAN I CHOOSE FROM?

GENERAL ASSEMBLY: Present and debate your country's viewpoint in committee and propose solutions to world and regional problems before the General Assembly, which is the main policymaking body of the United Nations.

SECURITY COUNCIL: Investigate issues which could lead to conflict and resolve crisis situations of safety and security using consensus and careful negotiation.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL: Research and discuss topics like the environment, water access and sustainable development to promote solutions that keep economies strong and improve the lives of people worldwide.

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL: Learn about vulnerable and marginalized people across the world and develop approaches to address past and current abuses.

GLOBAL FORUM: Learn about and discuss current global issues, using economics, education, the human condition, diplomacy, and security as lenses to explore effective solutions.

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE: Resolve disputes between member states, debate the interpretation of treaties, and make important decisions based on international law.

MEDIA: Conduct interviews, write news articles and opinion pieces, film important events at MUN, and report on election results.

CONFERENCE RESOURCE CENTER: Represent and advocate for agencies working within the United Nations, provide input to the other program areas on specific solutions to the issues they consider and administer the elections at the conference.

WHY SHOULD YOU PARTICIPATE IN MUN?

- Talk about relevant, global issues and how they affect your life and the lives of others.
- Practice using cooperation and diplomacy to influence others.
- Interact with students from different racial, cultural, economic, and political backgrounds.
- Build self-confidence and improve your public speaking skills.
- Gain skills that set you apart in job interviews and college applications.

Participating in Model United Nations helps you and others develop into informed, global citizens who not only understand the decisions their nations make but also how those changes effect policies and politics locally, regionally, and worldwide.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO PARTICIPATE?

Program registration includes all meetings and resources for the 3+ month program season, two nights' lodging, private meeting spaces and security at the hotel, and fun evening activities. Local delegations may add additional fees for food or transportation. Ask your delegation director for total program costs as well as how to apply for financial assistance.

MUN is open to students of all backgrounds and opinions from Minnesota and Wisconsin.

We offer need-based scholarships to reduce registration costs. IF YOU ARE COMMITTED TO ATTENDING MUN, WE ARE COMMITTED TO GETTING YOU THERE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER YMCA YOUTH VOICE.ORG

No delegation at your school?

Email Michael.Wall@ymcanorth.org or call 612-263-9893 and we will help get one started or connect you with our statewide delegation! For more details about MUN and other YMCA Center for Youth Voice programs, visit ymcayouthvoice.org.

IMPORTANT DATES*

- Registration Opens: January 17, 2023
- Country Lottery Opens: February 7, 2023
- MUN LAUNCH Session: February 25, 2023
- Registration Closes: February 28, 2023
- Model United Nations Conference: March 30-April 1, 2023

*In addition, each delegation will hold regular program meetings throughout the fall to prepare for the conference. Meeting times and locations will vary by school.

WHY MODEL UNITED NATIONS? BECAUSE DEMOCRACY MUST BE LEARNED BY EACH GENERATION.