



MONTANA MODEL UN

31 August 2012

Dear Montana Model UN High School Advisors,

Welcome to the 47th Annual Montana Model United Nations (MMUN) High School Conference at the University of Montana. In 2011, more than 350 students from 18 Montana and Idaho high schools attended the conference. On November 19, we look forward to greeting many returning teachers and schools and hosting some new ones.

In this letter, we provide information for new schools, preview the conference schedule, review our registration and country assignment policies, announce the 2012 committees and topics, and explain where to find advisor and delegate preparation materials.

Information for New Schools

At Model UN conferences, students “represent” countries on UN committees such as the General Assembly and Security Council. Students learn about other countries, debate international issues, and develop research, writing, public speaking, and negotiation skills. The MMUN conference also introduces students to the UM campus and to UM students and faculty. For more information on the conference, please visit our website, <http://www.cas.umt.edu/mun/HSconference/default.cfm>

If your school has never attended the conference, or if you have taken a break for several years, please contact Madison Brooke, the 2012 Secretary-General for External Affairs, at madison.brooke@umontana.edu. Madison and her staff are ready to answer your questions and are available to offer in-person or Skype workshops to help you and your students prepare.

Conference Schedule

As usual, the conference will be held at the University of Montana on the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 19-20). The conference will begin at 8:30 am on Monday with opening ceremonies and a keynote address and will end by 5:00 pm on Tuesday with closing ceremonies and awards. Opening and closing ceremonies will be held at the University (Dennison) Theatre. Committees will meet on the third floor of the University Center.

Registration Deadlines

The registration process has three steps:

1. **Registration:** As soon as possible, but *no later than October 1st*, please email Madison Brooke at madison.brooke@umontana.edu to let her know approximately how many students you will bring. Please cc faculty advisor Karen Adams at karen.adams@umontana.edu and administrative assistant Dani McLaughlin at dani.mclaughlin@umontana.edu on that email. It is fine to say “about the same number as last year.” Madison will then send you country assignments. *If you need additional countries, let Madison know by November 1.* To ensure that students have time to prepare for the conference, we will not assign countries after November 1.
2. **Fee Registration:** by **November 1**, please submit your fees and the Fee Registration form on the Advisor Resources page of the MMUN website. As in recent years, the school fee is \$50, and the delegate fee is \$15.
3. **Credentials Sheets:** by **November 9**, please submit a credentials sheet for each country your students are representing. You will find blank credentials sheets on the Advisor Resources page of the MMUN website.

Country Assignments

This year, we will simulate four large (General Assembly) committees and one small committee (Security Council). Thus each country will have at least 4 and no more than 5 committee positions. To give your students a cohort with whom to prepare for the conference, please assign all of your country positions before requesting another country.

Because we have more schools attending than there are Security Council seats, returning schools are rotated so that, in general, they receive a Security Council seat three of every four years.

If you receive a country with a seat on the Security Council, please think carefully about which of your students to assign there. The Security Council works best with well-informed, articulate students, usually seniors.

The first 19 schools to register will receive one country from the "Group of 20" countries. The G-20 is not a UN committee but consists of 19 countries with large economies, plus the European Union. G-20 members account for 90% of global gross national product, 80% of world trade, and 2/3 of world population. We will let you know if one of your countries is a G-20 member. These, too, are prime slots.

If you end up with more countries than you have students to fill, please notify Madison as soon as possible so she can assign the extra countries to another school.

2012 Committees and Topics

General Assembly Plenary

- Biodiversity and Development
- Nuclear Disarmament
- Reviewing the Human Rights Council

General Assembly First Committee (Disarmament and Security)

- Strengthening and Enforcing the Biological Weapons Convention
- Reducing Military Budgets
- Strengthening Security and Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific (esp. Myanmar & the South China Sea)

General Assembly Second Committee (Economic and Financial)

- Human Settlements
- Sport for Peace and Development
- Responding to High Food Prices

General Assembly Third Committee (Social and Humanitarian)

- Controlling and Eliminating Malaria by 2015
- Strengthening International Humanitarian Law (wartime treatment of soldiers, POWs, and civilians)
- Trafficking in Women and Children

Security Council

- Threats to Security Caused by Terrorist Acts (focusing on the situation in Yemen)
- The Situation in North Korea
- Peacebuilding (with attention to Haiti)

Background Guides

Background guides for all committees and topics will be posted in the "Topic Guide" section of the website , <http://www.cas.umt.edu/mun/HSconference/topicGuides.cfm>

We will post Committee History and Structure guides for each committee by mid-September. We will post the first topic guide per committee by late September, the second topic guide by early October, and the final topic guide per committee by mid-October.

Madison will email you when each set of guides has been posted. In addition, you can check the "What's New" page of the website.

Advisor Materials

On the Advisor Resources page of the MMUN website, <http://www.cas.umn.edu/mun/HSconference/advisorResources.cfm>, we have posted a “Six-Step Plan for Preparing Your Students,” a “Chair Script” so you can run practice simulations, and information on awards.

Several teachers have told us that the six-step plan and chair script have improved their preparations, so we encourage you to use them.

Delegate Materials

On the “Delegate Tools” page of the website, <http://www.cas.umn.edu/mun/HSconference/toolsForDelegates.cfm>, students will find guides for researching and writing position papers and resolutions. The MMUN rules of procedure are also posted there. Students should print and read all of these documents and put them in a notebook to refer to at the conference.

At the bottom of the Delegate Tools page, we have posted links to MMUN videos on UN history, parliamentary procedure, and a fun simulation using the rules.

Region Night

This year’s Monday night activity will be Region Night. Students will meet international students from the region of the country they are representing at the conference. The regions are Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe. Please email Madison if you or your students have suggestions for Region Night topics, speakers, music, or activities.

Questions & Workshops

If you have any questions, or if you and your students would like to participate in an in-person or Skype workshop to review conference preparations and procedures, please email Madison Brooke at madison.brooke@umontana.edu.

We look forward to seeing you and your students on November 19 and 20!

Sincerely,

Madison Brooke
2012 MMUN Secretary-General External

Madeline Bermes
2012 MMUN Secretary-General Internal

Prof. Karen Ruth Adams
MMUN Faculty Advisor
UM Department of Political Science