



MONTANA MODEL UN

15 September 2013

Dear Montana Model UN High School Advisors,

Welcome to the 48th Annual Montana Model United Nations (MMUN) High School Conference at the University of Montana. Last year, 350 students from 17 Montana and Idaho high schools attended the conference. On November 25, we look forward to seeing many returning schools and teachers and welcoming new ones.

In this letter, we provide information for new schools and advisors, as well as an overview of changes to this year's conference. You will also find information about the conference schedule, deadlines, country assignments, and topics.

Information for New Schools and Advisors

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 mtmodelun@gmail.com. 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.

Changes to This Year's Conference

To improve the conference and to respond to budget cutbacks, we have made a number of important changes:

- 1. To ensure that each committee has time to fully debate each topic and resolution, each committee will consider two topics instead of three, and chairs will encourage students to combine similar resolutions and to debate the provisions of particular resolutions. To reflect these changes, we are updating the advisor preparation tips, position paper instructions, chair script, and other documents posted on our website. In the meantime, last year's documents are posted for your review. Madison will let you know when updates are available. In addition, you can check the “What's New” page of the website.*
- 2. To expedite approval and printing of resolutions, students will type their own resolutions. Each committee room will have several computers for this purpose. Students are welcome to bring their own computers as well. Resolutions will be submitted as Word documents to the committee staff via committee flash drives. Typing will be allowed only when the committee is in unmoderated caucus. Computers, phones, and other electronic devices must be turned off at all other times. To ensure that resolutions reflect the collaboration of many students, the required number of sponsors and signatories will be increased.*
- 3. To encourage students to write well-researched and properly-formatted position papers, we have returned to the policy of requiring position papers to be submitted two weeks before the conference. This year, position papers are due by 11:59 pm on Monday, November 11. Each student will submit his/her paper by email to his/her committee. As in the past, only students who submit position papers by the deadline will be eligible for awards.*

4. *To more accurately reflect the workings of the actual General Assembly (GA) and to encourage further debate of the topics and issues, after lunch on Tuesday all students will attend a Combined General Assembly Plenary.* At the meeting, resolutions passed by the GA Plenary and Security Council will be presented by delegates from those committees, and resolutions passed by the GA subcommittees (GA-1, GA-2, and GA-3) will be presented, debated, and voted on. The Combined GA will be followed by the closing ceremony, where the MMUN staff will announce delegate, country, and school awards.
5. *To reduce our costs in response to budget shortfalls, the opening and closing ceremonies will be held at the University Center (where the committee sessions are held) instead of the Dennison Theatre.* Please note this change when you make arrangements with your bus driver.
6. *To cover our remaining costs, delegate fees have been raised from \$15 to \$30 per student.* School fees are still \$50 per school. If you are aware of students for whom the increase would be prohibitive, please contact Madison so she can arrange a scholarship. Fees have not been raised for years and at \$30 remain low, but we recognize that some students may need assistance.
7. *To expedite the registration and country-assignment process, we will use a website to collect your estimated student numbers and student names.* Madison will email you the invitation shortly. For more information about registration, please see below.
8. *To make it easier to track our communications with you, we have created a single email address -- mtmodelun@gmail.com -- for advisor correspondence.* Emails sent to that address will be forwarded to SG-E Madison Brooke, Administrative Assistant Dani McLaughlin, and Faculty Advisor Karen Adams. Madison will endeavor to respond within several days.

Conference Schedule

As usual, the conference will be held at The University of Montana on the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 25-26). All events will be held on the third floor of the University Center. The conference will begin at 8:30 am on Monday with opening ceremonies and a keynote address and will end by 4:00 pm on Tuesday with closing ceremonies and awards. We are finishing one hour earlier to enable distant schools to travel home in more light.

Registration, Payment and Position Paper Deadlines

There are four steps to register for MMUN:

- 1. Initial Registration and Country Assignments:** If you have received this letter by email, you will shortly receive an email from Madison with a registration link. As soon as possible, but *no later than **October 1st***, use the email link to let us know that your school will be attending the conference and to estimate the number of students you will bring. Madison will then email you your country assignments. If your numbers change, please use the email link to adjust your numbers so Madison can send you another country. To ensure that students have time to prepare for the conference, we will not assign countries after November 1. Please also use the link to let us know if you no longer need a country so we can assign it to another school.
- 2. Final Registration and Student Roster:** On October 1, Madison will email you a new link to submit your student roster. For each student, you will submit name, year in school, country assignment, and committee assignment. You must complete this information by **November 1**.
- 3. Payment:** All school and delegate fees are due on **November 1**. The school fee is \$50, and the delegate fee is \$30. To submit them, please use the form we will post on the Advisor Resources page of the MMUN website.
- 4. Submitting Position Papers:** Position papers from all delegates are due by **November 11**. Each student will submit his/her paper to his/her committee via email. Madison will send you instructions for this soon. We will also post the instructions on the Delegate page of the MMUN website. Students who do not submit position papers by the deadline will not be eligible for awards.

Country Assignments

This year, we will once again 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.

In assigning students to committees, we encourage you to consider the following:

1. Because we have more schools 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, be sure to assign a student there and to think carefully about which student you assign. The Security Council works best with well-informed, articulate students, usually seniors.
2. 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 that should be filled by students who are ready and willing to participate actively in formal and informal debates.
3. At the Combined GA Plenary, delegates to the GA Plenary will have the opportunity to make motions and speeches before the full 350-student conference. These students serve as their country's ambassador or highest permanent representative to the UN.

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. It is especially important to alert us to unused Security Council slots. Thank you.

2013 Committees and Topics

General Assembly Plenary

1. Adjusting to Climate Change
2. Reforming Membership and Voting in the Security Council

General Assembly First Committee (Disarmament and Security)

1. Addressing the Environmental Effects of War
2. Strengthening Security and Cooperation in the Arctic and Antarctic

General Assembly Second Committee (Economic and Financial)

1. Promoting New and Renewable Sources of Energy
2. The Role of Women in Development

General Assembly Third Committee (Social and Humanitarian)

1. Refugees, Internally-Displaced Persons, and the Right to Humanitarian Aid
2. Development as a Drug Control Strategy

Security Council

1. The Situation in Syria
2. Responding to a Pandemic

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 in mid-September. The first topic guide for each committee will be posted by late September, and the second topic guide will be posted 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.umt.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. As mentioned, we will be updating them to reflect the changes we have made this year (two topics per committee, more time for debate in committee, and presentations of passed resolutions to the Combined General Assembly).

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. We encourage you to watch these with your students and to run your own simulations to help students learn the rules.

Delegate Materials

On the “Delegate Tools” page of the website, <http://www.cas.umt.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. We will let you know as we update those so students can read them and put them in a notebook to refer to at the conference.

Region Night

On Monday night, we will present Region Night. As in past years, 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.

We look forward to seeing you and your students on November 25-26! In the meantime, good luck with your preparations and let us know how we can help you.

Sincerely,

Madison Brooke
2013 MMUN Secretary-General External
mtmodelun@gmail.com

Christina Bloemen
2013 MMUN Secretary-General Internal

Prof. Karen Ruth Adams
Associate Professor and MMUN Faculty Advisor
UM Department of Political Science
karen.adams@umontana.edu
(406) 243-2105

Dani McLaughlin
Office Manager
UM College of Arts and Sciences
mclaughlindc@mso.umt.edu
(406) 243-2632