



LILA STUDENTS! Join Model Assembly!



Model Assembly offers a wonderful opportunity for LILA students in grades 8-12 to exercise the arts of compromise and governing, while solving problems through “role playing”. Students will represent legislators, judges, attorneys, lobbyists, and cabinet members, media representatives, or introductory Leadership Corps. This program creates a working replica of the Minnesota state government, conducted almost entirely by students.

Last year, LILA had 8 students participate in the Model United Nations program with great success, we are excited to offer both Model Assembly and Model United Nations this year. Students loved staying at a hotel downtown, dressing up, and debating and solving important current issues. There is no expectation that students are already informed about governmental issues, just that they are willing to research and work to create a positive and respectful opportunity to learn more about our state government. The ability to conduct oneself respectfully, and be open-minded to differing opinions is critical.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. Is there an opportunity for students and parents to learn more?

A. Yes, feel free to send any questions via email to jennifermay24@hotmail.com. More information is available online at

https://www.ymcamn.org/locations/youth_in_government/programs/model_assembly

Q. What will my student do to prepare? What will they do at the actual conference?

A. Students will work in teams learning about bills, laws, court cases, lobby efforts and many other facets of the legislative process. At the conference, they will join students from all over Minnesota to collaborate, debate and write bills and influence policy on topics appropriate to their assignment. Students in 9-12th grade will have assignments as legislators, judges, attorneys, lobbyists, and cabinet members, media representatives. Leadership Corps serves 8th grade delegates as an introduction to Model Assembly and all the program choice possibilities. Delegates spend the weekend creating bills, arguing court cases, writing media articles, and visiting all the program areas in order to get the best first year Model Assembly experience.

Q. What are the arrangements at the hotel? What do they do after-hours?

A. Students will spend 3 nights at the Minneapolis Hilton and be transported to the Minnesota State Capitol during the day. This is a great opportunity for many of them to experience new things and grow in their independence. Structured evening activities include like a carnival/talent show/game

night/dance etc. With Advisors, LILA students decide on meals in the skyways system and get to explore downtown a bit. Students may request LILA roommates in same sex rooms, on same sex floors. No opposite sex students are permitted on hotel floors, and chaperones are on every floor. Students and Advisors create expectations and understanding about behavior which allows the students to exercise age appropriate independence to enjoy the experience in a safe and fun way. Advisors are present throughout the conference and parents are welcome to volunteer and visit.

Q. What is the cost to participate?

A. The State fee charged by the YMCA is \$425 which covers conference fees, daily transportation between the hotel and St. Paul, and 3 nights hotel accommodation, limited financial assistance is available to those who qualify through the YMCA. There is a \$15 discount for registrations received by October 3, 2017. Other schools charge a Delegation fee to cover transportation to/from the conference and other costs, but since parent advisors are volunteering their time, we are hoping to avoid having an additional Delegation fee if possible. Currently Jennifer May and Erin Turner are registered as Advisors, and additional parent volunteers are welcome to assist with preparation and/or transportation. Students will need spending money for meals during the conference and need to have professional dress clothes (boys typically wear shirt, tie, khakis and ladies wear skirts, dresses, pants, blouses).

Q, How do I register?

Please indicate interest as soon as possible to Jennifer May at jennifermay24@hotmail.com.

- *Register online – Credit Card* - You will need to put a deposit down via credit card. Half of the remaining balance will be drawn from that card on November 7 (first Tuesday in November), with the remainder drawn from that card on December 5 (first Tuesday in December).
- **Delegation Name** is "FOREST LAKE"
- **Student's Email** - This *must* be unique and different from your email or any other student's email otherwise their registration **WILL NOT WORK**. *The YIG State Office only communicates with students about YIG-related matters. Student email addresses are never shared outside the YMCA.*

https://www.ymcamn.org/locations/youth_in_government/programs/model_assembly/model_assembly_registration/parent_registration

You will need to create a login for the YMCA Twin Cities or use your member login if you are already a member.

Q. When does Model Assembly meet? What are the dates of the conference?

A. The dates of the conference are January 4-7, 2018. Students will not miss any school as this is still during the holiday break. Meeting dates: TBD. We will meet 1-2 times per week during the month of December. Students will do research and preparation on their own time as well. Understanding several interested students will be studying abroad in the fall, we will confine preparation to a short period of time this year, and learn through an immersion format at the actual event. Students in grades 8-12 are welcome!