



# Model United Nations



Model United Nations offers a wonderful opportunity for LILA students in grades 7-12 to exercise the arts of compromise and diplomacy to attempt to solve pressing global problems through “role playing”. As students simulate international organizations, they begin to find new answers to tough questions, to learn and respect opposing points of view, and to utilize the tools of peaceful change. This program creates a working replica of the United Nations, conducted almost entirely by students. Students can participate in a model General Assembly, International Court of Justice, Economic and Social Council, Security Council, Human Rights Council or Conference Newspaper.

Last year, LILA had 7 students participate in the program with great success. 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 international issues, just that they are willing to research and work to create a positive and respectful opportunity to learn more about the world around us. 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, join us on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:20am for an informational session or email questions to [jennifermay24@hotmail.com](mailto:jennifermay24@hotmail.com). Google Twin Cities Model UN for website and more information as well.

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

A. Students will work in teams representing a country. They will learn about the economy, history, and political system of that country, as well as their views on this year’s topics. At the conference, they will join students from all over Minnesota to collaborate, debate and craft resolutions on topics facing their committee. They will also come together in general assembly where countries vote, make speeches and lobby each other. Each student will research 2 topics based on their committee assignment, and they will represent their country’s views on those topics at the conference. This year’s topics include: Proliferation of Chemical Weapons, Foreign Involvement in Elections, Combating Sex Tourism, Currency Manipulation, Oceanic Biosphere Depletion, Gender Segregation, Tax Evasion by Multinational Corporations, Colonization of Space, Galactic Weaponry, Control of the Internet and more. While these sound like deep topics for students, they did an amazing job not only learning about the topics, but in expanding their own personal views, as well as understanding the views of the country they represent.

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

A. Students will spend 2 nights at the Minneapolis Marriot City Center. This is a great opportunity for many of them to experience new things and grow in their independence. Structured evening activities include a carnival/talent show/game night and a sit down dinner and dance. 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 \$345 which covers conference fees, one banquet meal, and 2 nights hotel accommodation. 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 Delegation Director Jennifer May at [jennifermay24@hotmail.com](mailto:jennifermay24@hotmail.com).

Register online – Also can be found by Googling Twin Cities Model United Nations and following registration directions

<https://ygtcprod2.personifycloud.com/personifyebusiness/Default.aspx?TabId=177&brcode=03&autosearch=Y>

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

Choose “Forest Lake” as your program name. **Important Notes for Online Registration:**

- You will need a credit card for down payment (deposit charged immediately; first payment charged automatically February 21; second and final payment charged automatically on March 21)
- You will need Healthcare information
- **Print off the confirmation page and send to [jennifermay24@hotmail.com](mailto:jennifermay24@hotmail.com)**

Those who register prior to February 1<sup>st</sup> will have priority choice for the country they represent, but students may register until February 15<sup>th</sup> (the price will increase by \$50 after that date). At our first meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup>, parents are welcome to attend to learn more.

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

A. The dates of the conference are March 30 – April 1, 2017. Students will be excused absent for 2 days of school.

Meeting dates:

Friday February 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 7:20am-7:40

March 17, 20, 24, and 27 from 2:30-4:30pm (if students are in Destination Imagination, we will work around their practices). We understand students may have conflicts with practices times, we can be flexible if students are able to put in time independently to complete their responsibilities.