

WSMUN
2009

Western Sierra Model United Nations

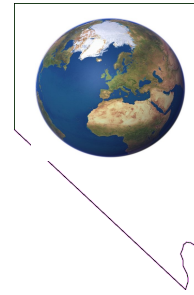
March 14-15, 2009

University of Nevada, Reno

Model United Nations simulations present unique opportunities for students to learn about the role of international institutions, foreign policy, public speaking, teamwork, research and analysis, the global economy, other countries and much more in one fun learning environment. Over 40,000 high school and college students participate in Model UN simulations around the world each year.

Northern Nevada International Center and the Model UN Club at the
University of Nevada
www.nnic.org





Northern
Nevada
International
Center

November 14, 2008

Dear WCSO Administrators and Educators,

We are writing you to present a new and exciting opportunity for Washoe County High School students. In March 2009, the University of Nevada will host the first Western Sierra Model United Nations (WSMUN). This conference will help students understand the world around them as well as preparing them with skills for life after high school. Programs such as this one aim to educate students about international institutions, foreign policy and, leadership skills as well as issues that affect our increasingly globalizing society. Each year, over 40,000 students participate in High School and Collegiate Model U.N. simulations worldwide.

This conference is being hosted jointly by the Northern Nevada International Center (NNIC) and the Model United Nations Club of the university. The NNIC administers professional and cultural exchanges for international visitors traveling under the auspices of the US Department of State and other federal agencies. The organization offers educational programs for the community, provides interpretation and translation services and is also the local World Affairs Council affiliate. The M.U.N. Club of the university has been participating in collegiate M.U.N. conferences for 15 years. Through this club, a dedicated group of UNR students have launched WSMUN to broaden the scope and impact to an even greater number of high school students. Beyond teaching students about international issues this conference will help students gain professional skills that will allow them to compete in any career.

Please find the enclosed information about our program. If you are interested in getting additional information about the program or have any general questions please feel free to reach us at:

Program Coordinator

John Marks
214-418-4920
JohnDMarks@gmail.com

NNIC Director

Carina Black, Ph.D.
775-784-7515, ext. 221
Cblack@unr.edu

MUN Club President

Jason Entsminger
775-813-3740
Entsming@unr.nevada.edu

- Community Connections
- Open World Program
- International Visitor Leadership Program
- Language Bank of Northern Nevada

Invitation

The United Nations Club of the University of Nevada, Reno and the Northern Nevada International Center would like to extend an invitation to the first **Western Sierra Model United Nations** (WSMUN) conference. This inaugural event is open to Washoe area high schools and community colleges.

The Model United Nations Club of the University is committed to creating as true and accurate a representation of the actual U.N. In order to achieve this students are expected to conduct detailed research and analysis on the agenda topics to be discussed, and the country they have chosen to represent, as well as the United Nations itself. In order to keep the simulation as authentic as possible students are also expected to represent their chosen country as accurately as possible.

Location

The 2009 Western Sierra Model United Nations event will take place Saturday and Sunday, March 14 and 15 at the University of Nevada, Reno Joe Crowley Student Union. Participants must be able to participate for both days if they choose to register for the conference.

Faculty and Advisor Support

The MUN club is committed to providing assistance to all advisors interested in attending this event. Advisors will be given handbooks and preparation materials explaining the processes and procedures that they will need to be familiar with. Veteran club members will also be providing workshops in areas like policy/resolution writing, policy statements, and essential country info. These club members will also be able to answer any questions advisors might have concerning pre-conference issues or procedural rules.

Delegate Support

Prior to the conference advisors will be given reference guides to give to all the participating students. These guides will explain all the rules and procedures that students will be expected to know as well as brief outlines about the agenda topics as well as giving a brief list of sources for research. Veteran club members will also be hosting workshops throughout the next several months to assist students with any concerns they may have and also providing any training for the rules of procedure.

What is Model United Nations?

Model United Nations is an academic learning experience through the simulation of the structures, processes, and issues of the member nations of the U.N. organization. Every year tens of thousands of high school and university students participate in MUN conferences around the world. While each program is run differently, they all serve to further international understanding and develop negotiation techniques. The participants are assigned countries which they will represent in a simulated United Nations committee as truthfully as possible. Each committee discusses contemporary international issues that are relevant to problems in the world today. Participants debate these issues, then draft and vote on resolutions relating to the topics.

Why participate in Model United Nations?

Since Model United Nations is an interactive learning experience it's not only fun but it creates a learning environment unparalleled by any classroom setting. It is also a great way to learn and practice a wealth of skills that ordinarily would be difficult to teach. MUN participants are expected to know the role of their country in the international community and address world issues accordingly. This process forces the participants to take a stance that they might not otherwise take and encourages looking at world issues from new angles. Participants in MUN are driven and tested by their peers creating a new challenge for them as they work to test each other in an interactive environment. MUN facilitates the growth of skills that can be difficult to teach in a classroom environment, skills such as: professional speaking, policy writing, debate, research, and conflict resolution.

Who benefits from Model United Nations?

Model United Nations will benefit all participants looking to improve their interpersonal communication skills. Through formalized debate, public speeches, and technical writing, participants' work together to draft and vote on proposals on a wide range of topics. MUN represents an excellent way for students to practice some of the tools and skills used in daily business communications. Participants in MUN will develop a greater understanding of the communication skills required in the modern business world as well as gaining knowledge about the global environment.

ROLE OF A FACULTY ADVISOR

(Adapted from material by Dr. Peter Haslund, Santa Barbara City College)

Recruitment Officer

Recruiting is an integral part of creating a Model UN club or class. Once students agree to join, they usually become fascinated by the simulation and end up staying. One suggestion for encouraging recruitment is to invite a past delegate to speak about his or her previous interest, either during a special interest session or (sometimes more effectively) casually by word of mouth. It is important to deputize student interest and involvement by encouraging experienced participants to take initiative. Teachers can also have in-class simulations; once students start MUN they usually can't stop. Of course, there is the traditional method of putting up posters and hosting an informational meeting. At the meeting, teachers can show a video about MUN (such as UNA-USA's *Model UN for Everyone*) or have students discuss their experiences, involvement, etc.

Organizer

As Model UN conferences are in different locations, faculty advisors will often plan travel arrangements and other logistical matters. Enlisting the help of experienced students will make it easier to manage these tasks as well as the club's day-to-day activities. The faculty advisor should assign leadership roles or have the students elect leaders. Usually, students will rise to the occasion.

Motivator

At various points along the path of preparing for an upcoming Model UN conference, students may begin to doubt their abilities as they experience new challenges. An advisor has to create a sense of both interest and engagement in the process in order to ease these fears.

Instructor

For a class advisor, creating a course structure that satisfies both academic requirements and the demands of a Model UN simulation can be challenging. If you are a club advisor and there is no credit given for the experience, there may be a lack of academic interest or discipline. An advisor has to create a structure in which both types of Model UN groups will achieve their requirements.

Fund Raiser

Realistically, Model UN clubs have a hard time competing for funds against other, more financially prominent clubs or teams. Therefore, the faculty advisor must develop techniques to collect financial resources so that the delegation can travel and participate in simulations. (For more fundraising tips, visit www.model-un.org.)

Setter of Boundaries

It is important that faculty advisors set clear parameters about what is and is not acceptable behavior. Advisors should encourage students to enjoy the conference and acknowledge that this will include an active social life. But they should also point out that any behavior that brings discredit to the team or to the school will be addressed sternly and swiftly. There should be flexibility and open-mindedness, but there should be no question about the nature and extent of rules and codes of conduct.

Cheerleader

By visiting committee sessions throughout the day (in other words, by showing support), teachers instill a valuable sense of approval and confidence in students. Many advisors take the delegation to dinner at least once during the conference. This builds teamwork, trust and camaraderie between among students and their advisor.

Publicist

The task of telling the world that you are engaged in something unique and academically useful belongs to you. Faculty advisors can prepare a report about their delegation's activities after returning from a conference and submit it to the school's administration or district board. They can also urge a school or local newspaper to highlight the delegation's experiences in a story or ask a campus information officer to develop a press release about the group's achievements. Photos of students interacting at a conference are often useful attachments to a press release or article.

Evaluator

Feedback is an important aspect of every successful academic experience. Advisors should use both anonymous, written evaluations and a general discussion with the students to gather this information.

Western Sierra Model United Nations

2009 Western Sierra Conference Registration Form

Please note:

- ❖ Country assignments are on a first-come, first-serve basis

- ❖ The registration deadline is **January 21, 2009**

School registration fee \$70.00
 Delegate fee (per delegate) \$35.00
The delegate fees cover preparation materials, conference T-shirt, two lunches, and administrative details.

Please fill out as clearly as possible

School Name:		Advisor's Name:	
School Address:			
City:	State:	Zip Code:	Advisor's Phone:
Advisor's E-mail:		# of Students Attending:	
Country Name:	Country Name:	Country Name:	

Country Preference

Remember that we ask that two students represent each country (one in each committee). Please add at least one additional country to your selections as there is a possibility that one of your choices may have already been taken. So if you have six students participating, choose 4 countries. You will be notified via e-mail which countries you were assigned.

Please send this form along with your registration fees payable by either check or money order to the "Northern Nevada International Center" to:

Northern Nevada International Center
 ATTN: John Marks
 821 N. Center St.
 Reno, NV 89501

John Marks
 PH: 214-418-4920
 Email: JohnDMarks@gmail.com

Western Sierra M.U.N. 2009 Additional Information

Conference Topics

Two committees will be represented during the conference. While these committees are independent of one another, we strongly encourage students representing the same country to work together.

General Assembly:

Environmental Sustainability – Millennium Development Goal
Defining Terrorism

3rd Committee:

Universal Education – Millennium Development Goal
Implementing the Geneva Convention on Torture

Training Classes

We will be offering training classes for any students wishing to attend the conference. These classes will cover a wide range of topics aiming to educate students on International Relations and the role of the United Nations in the international community. As well as preparing them to participate in the M.U.N. Conference with writing guidelines and debate skills. These classes are open to anyone who has registered to attend the conference and are highly recommended for anyone wishing to participate.

2009 WSMUN Training Schedule

University of Nevada
Joe Crowley Student Union Great Room (4th floor)
9:00am-noon
Registration/icebreaker from 8:30-9:00am

Dates	Training Topics
January 17, 2009	Introduction to Model United Nations, What is the United Nations
January 31, 2009	Topics, In depth discussion on the topics we will be addressing
February 14, 2009	Resolutions, Resolution writing workshop and policy papers
February 28, 2009	Rules, Introduction to the rules and procedures of the United Nations
March 14, 2009	MOCK SESSION, practice session to get students comfortable

All classes will be held at the University of Nevada campus in the Joe Crowley Student Union's Great Room from 9:00am-12:00pm

Preferred Country List

North America:

United States Mexico

South America:

Colombia Venezuela Brazil Bolivia
Chile

Asia:

China Burma India South Korea
North Korea Japan

Middle East:

Syria Pakistan Saudi Arabia Iran

Africa:

Egypt Nigeria Sudan Libya
Chad South Africa

Europe:

United Kingdom France Russia Germany
Spain Turkey