

A Message to the Parents...

Congratulations on your child being selected as a student delegate at a unique Model United Nations Program sponsored by Rotary District 5340! As a student delegate, your child will become exposed to and engaged in major world issues, while meeting and working alongside their peers from different socio-economic groups, cultures and backgrounds. This experience is very similar to that experienced by actual delegates to the United Nations. Students will strengthen their leadership qualities while applying their studies in such areas as history, geography, and science to a practical situation-most importantly, learning to become peace builders.

Students participating in the program will learn about many different nations along with the dynamics of international affairs. In addition to learning about the cultures and policies of the countries that they represent, they will also learn about the world as a whole. Students will also learn the details of important global issues, the policies of many countries toward these issues, the activities of the United Nations and develop a better understanding of world affairs.

This experience will require students to re-examine prejudices, beliefs and stereotypes about other cultures. They accomplish this by having to uphold the foreign policy of a country alien to him/her, even when the country's policies are in conflict with the student's own feelings.

During the preparation process, students will develop personal and technical skills and will gain experience in researching their country and agenda topics. To persuade other countries, students will hone their persuasive writing and speaking skills. Our Model UN team is committed to helping the students with these skills prior to the actual conference, which will include Model United Nations Conference simulations and public speaking skills. In addition, they will be experiencing conflict resolution, negotiating and critical thinking, abilities that will assist them in their lifelong activities.

This year, our conference will be held at the Joan Kroc Institute of Peace & Justice, University of San Diego, beginning on Saturday, May 14, 2011 at 8 a.m. The program will conclude no later than 4:00 pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011. The students will also receive full meals along with an overnight stay at the Crowne Plaza San Diego Hotel. They will be safely transferred between the 2 locations. Students will be housed 2 or 3 to a room with other students of the same gender. They will be thoroughly supervised throughout the weekend, and there will be a chaperone who will be awake and monitoring the hallways during the night of the hotel stay. Rotary District 5340 has adapted a Youth Protection Policy which will further ensure the safety and protection of your child during this program. All advisors and other adults supervising your child will have undergone training in this policy and will have undergone a background check. Permission slips and medical release forms will be required by all students.

We will also welcome parents/guardians to our weekend events during the General Assemblies and evening banquet program. Due to the limited size capacity of our conference, guests will be welcomed on a first come, first served basis. For information on this and all other subjects, please contact your student's advisor.

Sincerely,

Rob Mullally

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