

## *Rotary Model United Nations Program*



Dear Parents of Student Delegates,

Congratulations on your child being selected as a student delegate at a unique Model United Nations Program sponsored by Rotary District 5340! You should feel very proud that your son or daughter will be able to participate in this wonderful and enriching program.

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 the situations encountered 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 practical real-world situations. Most importantly, they will learn how to peacefully resolve conflicts and reach consensus on various issues – critical tools to becoming peace builders or community leaders.

Last year we addressed the conflict at the Turkish-Syrian border, and a climate change issue related to air travel. This year, our two resolutions will continue to focus on important contemporary global conflict and climate issues. Our Model UN resolutions usually parallel issues that are currently being addressed by the real United Nations in its current General Assembly Session.

Students participating in our MUN 2021 program will learn about the dynamics of international politics. They will also become familiar with the cultures and policies of the respective countries they represent. Your child 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.

Your child will have to role-play and ‘become’ a true ambassador of a foreign country and set aside their US-centric values and beliefs, and present and argue the various UN resolutions solely from the perspective of their country. This experience will require them to re-examine prejudices, beliefs and stereotypes about other cultures. They will have to accomplish this by having to uphold the foreign policies of ‘their country’, even when those policies are in conflict with their own feelings.

During the preparation process, students will develop personal and technical skills, and will gain experience in researching the political and economic issues currently facing their respective countries. To persuade other countries to adopt their perspective on the various resolutions, your child will have to use their persuasive writing and speaking skills. Their Rotary and/or high school faculty advisors will help your child learn how to improve these skills. They will also learn how to more effectively listen to the needs of other countries and diplomatically negotiate compromises - abilities that will assist them in whatever career they ultimately pursue.

Due to unprecedented disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, MUN 2020 was conducted online via Zoom as the first ever Virtual Rotary Model UN conference. Our amazing students showed the world what talented, exceptional, inspiring, and motivated students can do. We are indeed proud of our youth; our hopes and efforts to build a better future is brighter than ever.

MUN 2021 will be held on Saturday, March 27, 2021 between 7:30am to 4:00pm; and Sunday, March 28, 2021 between 8:00am to 2:00pm.

This year, we envision a possible hybrid version of Rotary Model UN - the combination of a virtual session via Zoom and an in-person luncheon, at the outdoor garden area at the University of San Diego's Joan Kroc Institute of Peace and Justice. A final decision on the format for MUN 2021 will be taken based on local conditions closer to that time.

Rotary District 5340 has adopted a Youth Protection Policy for participating adults to ensure the safety and protection of your child during this program. All Rotarians, advisors, and participating adults supervising your child, including myself, have to be 'Youth Certified' by our District, by undergoing training and a background check.

However, we will still need your help as Parents and Guardians of participating students, to emphasize the need to adhere to our rules and safety regulations to ensure the safety of your child. We will have zero-tolerance for any student who violates our safety rules. They will be expelled from the conference and you will be called to pick them up immediately.

Advisors will be sending you or your child three forms - Permission Slip, Medical Release, and Photography/Video Release - to be completed and signed by you. Please promptly fill-in the required information and return it to your child's advisor. All the costs associated with this MUN conference has been sponsored by generous donations. Most of the sponsorships are funded by Rotary Clubs, and the rest are donated by private individuals or selected schools.

We welcome your attendance at the conference. Due to the limited size capacity of our venues, guests will be welcomed on a first come, first serve basis. Please let your child's advisor know if you'd like to attend any part of MUN 2021.

This will be a very instructive and rewarding event for all of us. We look forward to being part of the amazing growth your child will experience during this fantastic program.

Respectfully,

Pauline Lim-Endresen  
Chair  
Rotary District 5340 Model United Nations Program  
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