

*31st Annual Tennessee YMCA
Model United Nations*

Sponsored by the YMCA of Middle Tennessee



New Advisor Supplement

About the Center for Civic Engagement's Programs

The YMCA Center for Civic Engagement provides two main programs to high school and middle school students from across the state of Tennessee: Model United Nations and Youth In Government.

Model United Nations

Each fall, the YMCA of Middle Tennessee sponsors two three-day Model United Nations conferences at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro, TN for high school students. Each individual school decides on which conference to attend based on their school schedules. Most schools choose to spend the night at the Embassy Suites, but this is not required.

At the conference, Tennessee high school students learn about the real world operation of the United Nations by participating in a reenactment of the organization's activities. Most students form delegations of three students and represent member countries' interests in the General Assembly by drafting and debating resolutions. These resolutions cover a wide variety of topics of international concern. Information about the resolution contents, format, etc is in the Advisor's Manual. Other students have the opportunity to represent their countries on the Security Council, participate in a model International Court of Justice, or participate in the Video or Press Corps.

Middle School conferences are held in Murfreesboro (2 date choices), Memphis (1 date choice), and tentatively Chattanooga (1 date choice). Each individual school chooses which conference they will attend based on location and dates. They are very similar to the high school conferences, but last only one day and only have the General Assembly component.

Youth In Government

The Tennessee YMCA Youth in Government Program is an annual conference designed to offer high school and middle school students a hands-on experience with state government. Each year, some 1600 students from across the state converge on the State Capitol, taking the places of our real government officials. Program participants can serve as senators or representatives, as justices and lawyers, as department commissioners and lobbyists, or even as press corps members. Similarly to the Model United Nations conference in the fall, there are two four-day Spring conferences for high school students. Students stay in the Sheraton Suites of downtown Nashville, located adjacent to the Tennessee Capitol where most of the conference takes place. Most students choose to serve as senators or representatives and are required to write and debate bills. Lawyers receive cases prior to the conference and are required to write briefs on these cases and then argue them in front of the court at the conferences.

Middle School conferences are also held in the Capitol in Nashville as well as in Memphis. They are similar to high school conferences, but middle school students can only be senators or representatives.

Debunking Model United Nations In-Depth

So you have the Advisor's Manual about Model United Nations, but have questions? This New Advisor's Supplement should help you out. Of course you can email us or call us at any time with any questions and we will be more than happy to help or visit our website at www.tennesseecce.org.

Some of the advisor manual is relatively straightforward (dates, contact info, etc), other parts not so much. This section will walk you through each part of the advisor's manual and hopefully answer most of your questions.

Conference Dates: There are two conference dates for high school students. Each individual school chooses the best date for their school based on their individual schedules. Both conferences take place at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro (about 20 miles south of Nashville).

There are also two dates for middle school students in Murfreesboro, one in Memphis, and one tentatively in Chattanooga. Each individual school selects which location and date based on their individual schedules.

What's New: This is simply a list of all of the new aspects of the conference this year. All of these topics will be explained throughout the advisor manual or in our one on one meetings. If you have specific questions, please let us know.

General Conference Information: This is a thorough explanation of the "component" options for Model UN. Each student must register for a component in order to participate in Model UN. Remember, some components require at least a year of experience in order to participate. Each component has a specific registration process and a specific pre-conference assignment. For General Assembly participants, the largest component, a list of countries from which to choose is available in the Advisor Manual. Students will be randomly assigned a country from their top choices upon registering before the deadline. Those received after the deadline will be given on a first come, first serve basis. We recommend that first time schools concentrate most of their students in General Assembly. While the other components provide really great experiences, it is sometimes easier to come to conference for the first time and try out "GA" and then add on the next year.

Deadlines: Deadlines are pretty straightforward. However, there are different deadlines for different things so be sure to pay close attention. We also highly suggest that you tell students an earlier deadline than is the actual deadline so you have time to review the resolutions and suggest changes before the actual deadline. Many advisors have also found it very helpful to have a "Resolution Draft" deadline in which all students submit the draft of their resolutions early and have older, experienced students read over the resolutions and suggest changes before they turn in a final copy. If your school is new to the program all together, we are happy to have our college staff volunteers look over the them beforehand as well. ****Almost all registrations are done online****

Deadlines are strict. They not only enable us to serve you better, but also effect the awards process for students. If your students do not turn in everything on time, they are not eligible for awards.

Plan Padrino Trip Information: Plan Padrino is a program sponsored by the YMCA of Ibague, Colombia that has teamed up with the Tennessee Center for Civic Engagement Program of the YMCA of Middle Tennessee in order to sponsor impoverished school age children in the village of Ibague, Colombia who are willing to work hard, and wish to achieve success in school. This program empowers the students to continue their education, as education is not free in Colombia, and learn skills, such as English, that will hopefully allow them to overcome the cycle of poverty inherent in Colombia, as well as help to provide for their families.

Furthermore, we have an exchange program in which students sponsored by the Plan Padrino Project come to Nashville to join us for the Model United Nations conferences in the fall to learn about our culture and meet our students. This past summer, we took a group of students to Ibague to learn more about their culture and more about the Plan Padrino Project and its impact. Now, your students can apply to come on the trip as well. The applications are available online.

Election Guidelines: Our conferences are student run. Student officers lead each component and have a variety of responsibilities depending on the office. All students are able to run for an office, but some have specific requirements. See here for details and regulations. Most candidates at our conferences bring buttons with their logos and posters to pass out and post around the hotel. (Please note, they will need easels to put their posters on.)

Premier Delegation: Your school should try to earn premier delegation! It is a high honor and only given to the best of the best schools. Qualifications are listed in the Advisors' Manual.

Fee Summary: Model United Nations costs \$250 per student and \$275 a student for Youth In Government. This is based on a \$150 conference fee and a \$400 for MUN and \$500 for YIG hotel room cost. IF you have more than 4 students in a hotel room (you can do five), this cost per student will decrease a bit. This \$250/\$275 fee does not include any school fees or transportation fees. It also does not include the advisor room or advisor registration fee (\$25). Some advisors choose to charge students a bit extra to help cover these costs if the school will not cover it. Ask us how to get a discount on your room!

Conference Agenda: This agenda is also pretty straightforward about where and when to be places, but it also reveals a deeper understanding of the conference.

Agenda Explained:

- a) Conference Registration and Luggage Storage: Upon arriving at the conference, please come to the designated area, known as our "Information Booth," to pick up nametags and books for your students as well as any additional info we may have for you. You will need to pass these nametags

and books out to your students before the opening session. Because we do not get hotel rooms so early in the morning, students will need to store their luggage in the designated area. (We will pass out room keys as we receive them.)

- b) Luggage Storage on Sunday: Students will need to move out of their rooms before Plenary on Sunday. They can store their luggage in the designated room for luggage or in their cars or bus (where applicable).
- c) Opening Session: Everyone must attend opening session. All candidate speeches will be given at this time.
- d) Committee Meetings: Every GA member will present their resolutions during committee meetings. Advisors will be assigned a certain place for Awards Committee, but can move from room to room to hear their own students as long as someone from the Awards committee is in each room at all times.
- e) Lunch and Dinner Break: Dinner is on your own for students. Where they can go is up to school policy, but they cannot drive or ride in a car anywhere. There are several restaurants (in all price ranges) within close walking distance. Breakfast is provided by the hotel on Saturday and Sunday morning, however, students are responsible for gratuity. We suggest a \$1-2 tip for breakfast.
- f) Advisor Dinner: Advisors are provided dinner on Friday night. It's our way of saying thanks!
- g) World Cup: World Cup is similar to Quiz Bowl, a trivia style competition. All schools are welcome. Teams are typically made up of four students. The registration fee supports the Plan Padrino Program.
- h) Advisor Hospitality Room: The Advisor Hospitality Room is well stocked with sustenance throughout the day for you. It is a great place to come relax or grade papers and meet other teachers.
- i) General Assembly and Plenary: The top ranked resolutions out of each committee will appear on the docket (those resolutions to be presented again) in General Assembly EXCEPT for the absolute best ranked resolution out of each committee which will be presented on Sunday in Plenary.
- j) Dance: There is a dance on Saturday night for MUN. Dress is casual, but there is a theme that is encouraged for outfits. All students must attend. There will also be a game room for students that don't want to dance and students are welcome to bring cards or board games to play in the areas outside of the dance.

United Nations Member States: If your students are serving in the General Assembly, they must choose a country from this list of member states. They will rank their top choices and then we will send out their actual assignment.

Service Learning Projects: As a way to inspire students to engage in their community, we encourage schools to sponsor a service learning project or join one that is already in existence. You have to complete a service project in order to be a premier delegation. The list in the Advisors' Manual is an example list. You can definitely choose your own.

We highly recommend supporting our Plan Padrino Program that sponsors students in Ibague, Colombia to attend middle school and high school.

Awards' Criteria: We are proud to give out several awards to our most outstanding participants and resolutions at every conference. These awards are a great honor. Criteria is found in the Advisor's Manual.

Registration Process and Upload Process: Almost all of our registration forms and all upload forms should be filled out online. There are extensive details on how to do this in the Advisors' Manual, but if you should have any questions, please email us at allisongossett@tennesseece.org. Please take note that though we have included hardcopy versions of all registration materials, MOST registration materials must be submitted through our online registration database. Some advisors choose to hand out these hardcopy forms and have students turn them in and then have their club officers enter in the information for the whole school group. This is totally up to you, but we will not accept the paper copies.

Registration Forms: Registration processes for each component are slightly different. All of the registration forms for our components are available in the advisor manual, but must be filled out online. Main issues to note in our registration forms:

- All adults attending must have a completed background check on file with the YMCA. If you have not filled out a background authorization form for us within the past year, you must fill one out by October 5th.
- We do everything possible to provide financial assistance to those in need of it. We do not want financial capability to be a deciding factor in attending any CCE program. That said, we cannot always meet all financial aid requests but try to reply as soon as possible to any inquiries and applications. Student families will need to fill out this information in full and turn it in to us to be evaluated by the designated deadline. Any requests received after the deadline will be evaluated based on our limited availability. AKA- The sooner you turn it in, the better chance your students will have of receiving financial aid. Financial aid can only cover our outlined program costs, not fees for transportation or extra school fees. So that our families and students have ownership over this program, it is our policy not to give 100% aid unless there are extreme circumstances.
- Invoice worksheet: Outlines the total cost for your school. This can be submitted to your accounting office as your "bill" for the conference if needed. (Financial Aid application can be found elsewhere.)
- Advisors can recommend students that are not currently officers to serve as committee clerks.
- ALL students must sign a Delegate Code of Conduct, which outlines our rules and regulations. You do not have to turn this in to our Office, but you must have it on hand at conferences in case of a disciplinary issue.
- Rooming List: Rooms are 4 people per room (you can possibly fit in 5). These are suites with a pull out couch so you can possibly fit 5. We do not recommend more than 5. We cannot guarantee that there will be two

double beds in a room. Boys and girls must be separated. You should complete the rooming list online. The sheet in the advisor's manual is for your assistance only.

- The Component Submission Checklist is there for your use only. It does not need to be turned into our office, but will hopefully help you keep track of students' assignments.

Please also note when registering that all students in every component will have a preference assignment. Most students will be required to write a resolution. There are lots of tools in the Advisors' Manual and the Delegate Manual (available online) that will guide students through completing these assignments. Please make sure your students review the Delegate Manual Online!

MUN Upload Process: All pre-conference assignments for Security Council and General Assembly are to be uploaded online. Please see the extensive directions in the Advisors Manual. Preference assignments for the Department of Public Information, the International Court of Justice, and the Secretariat are to be emailed to allisongossett@tennesseecce.org

Component Information: All of these documents explain the components and their assignments in more depth. These are also available in our Delegates' Manual and are extremely helpful for students.