

Rotary Model United Nations Program



Developing the Leaders of Tomorrow - Today

2017 ROTARY DISTRICT 5340 MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

The thirteenth annual Rotary District 5340 Model United Nations Conference will take place on the weekend of April 8 and 9, 2017, at Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, University of San Diego, and the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Mission Valley. The Rotary Model United Nations is a reproduction of the United Nations General Assembly. A number of countries that have representation in the UN are each represented by a delegation of two students. These students are selected, sponsored, supported and advised by participating Rotary Clubs in District 5340. The advisor attends the Conference and may be a Rotarian, a teacher or other interested member of the community.

Prior to the Model UN Conference, two resolutions are distributed to the participants. The resolutions closely relate to currently pressing international issues before the real UN General Assembly. Last year we addressed the overwhelming European Union refugee crisis, and the alarming conflicts caused by China's aggressive land reclamation activities in the South and East China Seas. This year we will debate the complexities of Brexit – a huge looming issue for Britain, Europe and many other countries who transact business with Britain and the EU, as well as the critical problems of climate change. Our Rotary District is the only Rotary District in the entire United States that operates a Model UN program.

The students are given training in peaceful conflict resolution, diplomatic negotiating, and analytical thinking and speaking skills. As ambassadors of their particular country, students will research the political, economic and cultural aspects of their nation in order to develop that country's position on the resolutions. They will then weave those positions into sponsoring, supporting or opposing speeches directed to the resolutions.

During the two day Conference, the student delegates present their prepared and spontaneous speeches to the General Assembly. On Saturday afternoon, they also break into smaller caucus groups to forge alliances and propose, discuss and draft various amendments to the resolutions that will hopefully satisfy the positions of the various countries. On Saturday evening we will enjoy a banquet at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Mission Valley. After our banquet dinner, we will have a keynote presentation; last year's keynote speaker was Ambassador Betty King, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and to the World Health Organization.

On Sunday, the student ambassadors will present and debate each caucus group's amendments to the resolutions. After further collaborations and refinements of the various

amendments, the students will then vote on the amendments to the resolutions with the goal of reaching unanimity or majority consensus on a final amendment to each resolution.

Please read the Message to Parents to learn about the immeasurable benefits the students will receive by participating in this tremendous experience. Rotary Model UN is not a competitive program; there are no winners or losers. We emphasize peaceful consensus building and diplomacy among the activities of all of our high school students. This year, we are thrilled to announce that we will have MUN students representing a diverse spectrum of ethnic and socio-economic groups from San Diego and Riverside Counties and from Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru, Honduras, Dominican Republic, British Columbia, Canada and India – the most ever international countries in our history! We focus on inculcating into the students the Rotary spirit of “Service Above Self” and other essential tools to enable them to become effective negotiators, consensus builders and peace makers - skill sets they will use in whatever career they pursue. We hope to inspire the students to become creative problem solvers and perhaps the next community leaders, diplomats or Rotarians of our world.