Rotary Model United Nations Program

Developing the Leaders of Tomorrow - Today

<u>2020 ROTARY DISTRICT 5340 MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE</u>

The sixteenth annual Rotary District 5340 Model United Nations Conference will take place on the weekend of March 28 & 29, 2020, 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 patterned after 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. For example, in previous years we addressed a unique proposal to admit Palestine as a new member country into the UN and the continuing Israeli/Palestinian conflict, and the alarming situation of microplastic pollution in our global oceans and proposed terms of a new international treaty to protect our oceans. We are presently researching the topics for our 2020 MUN Conference. Our Rotary District was the only Rotary District in the entire United States that operated a Model UN program, until 2019 when our fellow Rotarians in Eugene, Oregon, who have been inspired by our MUN Conferences, put on their inaugural Model UN Conference.

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 dinner at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Mission Valley. After our banquet dinner, we will have a presentation from a special keynote speaker. Many of our previous keynote speakers have included current and past UN Ambassadors, US Ambassadors and senior US State Department officials.

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 Letter 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. Our MUN Conference has truly become an international event as our MUN students represent a diverse spectrum of ethnic and socio-economic groups from San Diego to Mexico, Costa Rica, British Columbia, Canada and other Central or South American countries as well. 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.