Overview

Each year during the closing ceremonies on Tuesday, Montana Model United Nations Staff announce awards for individual delegates, country delegations, schools, and conference staff. This document lists the awards and enumerates their criteria.

Position Paper Awards

There are two position paper awards:

-- Distinguished Position Paper (top 20% of nominated papers, verbal commendation)
-- Outstanding Position Paper (top 10% of nominated papers, medal)

To be eligible for a position paper award, students must be nominated by their high schools. Each school may nominate two papers per year. To do so, advisors must submit three copies of each nominated paper to the Office of Delegate Services (UC 329) by noon on Monday. MMUN executive staff will read the position papers during the conference.

Winning papers will follow the formatting instructions, exhibit excellent research and diplomatic writing, and be true to the country’s actual or likely positions.

Delegate Awards

The delegate awards are as follows:

--Honorable Delegate (top 20% of delegates in the committee, verbal commendation)
--Distinguished Delegate (top 10%, certificate)
--Outstanding Delegate (top 1-2%, gavel)

Over the two-day conference, each delegate can earn up to 10 points, one point for submitting a position paper during the first committee session, one point for winning a position paper award, one point for attending each of the first 4 committee sessions, and one point for of the 4 sessions in which s/he appears on the committee’s list of active, effective, and diplomatic delegates.

This point system ensures that delegate awards are given to students who both prepare well for the conference and who perform well in committee. Committee performance is judged by committee staff at the end of each of committee session. In identifying the top 10% of delegates in each session, MMUN staff consider the following questions:

- How often did the delegate participate in the formal committee session?
- How knowledgeable was the delegate regarding the rules, the topics, and his or her country?
- Were the delegate’s speeches diplomatic, informative, and to the point?
- How active, constructive, and diplomatic was the delegate in caucuses?
- Did the delegate work with other delegates to write resolutions?
- What was the quality of the resolutions the delegate sponsored and signed?

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- Was the delegate effective and diplomatic in negotiation and consensus-building?
- How true was the delegate to his or her country’s position?

To be named an Honorable Delegate, a student needs a minimum of 6 points. This means s/he must submit a position paper, attend all of the first four sessions, and earn one additional point, either due to a position paper award or due to recognition by committee staff for excellent participation in one committee session. However, 6 points are not sufficient to earn an award. Student eligibility for delegate awards also depends on the following:

--Delegates who do not submit position papers are not eligible for delegate awards or for the Top 20 Senior award. It is very important for delegates and advisors to understand the importance of position papers. Every year, some of the students who perform well in committee do not submit position papers. In fact, in 2011, just 81% of students submitted position papers. This is very disappointing to the MMUN Staff, who would like to recognize students for their excellent speeches and negotiation skills but are committed to recognizing only students who both prepare well before the conference and perform well in committee. Delegates who do not submit position papers are not just jeopardizing their ability to win awards; they also make it impossible for their country to win a country award and difficult for their school to win a school award.

--Only delegates whose position papers are properly formatted, well-researched, and well-written are eligible for the Outstanding Delegate award and the Top 20 Senior award.

--To be recognized by their committee staff, delegates must work with students from other schools. Model UN is about international cooperation, so Montana Model UN expects to see and will reward meaningful cooperation across schools. To accomplish this, before the conference each delegate must develop a good understanding of his or her country and its allies. At the conference, each delegate should listen to other delegates’ opening speeches about their preferred agenda order and preferred resolution content, introduce him/herself to his/her country’s allies and to delegates with similar agenda and resolution preferences, and work with those countries to influence the agenda order and to write meaningful resolutions that their country would actually support.

--It is important for delegates to understand that MMUN staff are observing their contribution to diplomatic debate and international cooperation during both formal committee sessions and caucuses. Undiplomatic comments, excessive note-passing, sending notes that are unrelated to the conference, failure to adhere to the dress code and other provisions of the Delegate Conduct Code, submitting resolutions that do not meet the standards of the Resolution Guide, and other forms of undiplomatic behavior make it unlikely that a delegate will be considered for an award.

Top 20 Seniors

This award is given to the top 20 seniors at the conference. To determine which students are seniors, the MMUN staff consult each school’s credential’s form. Each Top 20 Senior must submit a properly formatted and well-researched position paper, attend every committee session, and participate actively and constructively in formal and informal committee sessions. In determining these awards, we consider input from the faculty advisors.

Each Top 20 Senior receives a medal at the awards ceremony. In addition, the top 5 seniors are offered a $1,000 scholarship to attend the University of Montana. Any scholarship turned down by one of the first 5 seniors will be offered to the next senior on the Top 20 list. In recent years, at least half of the Top 20 Seniors have been offered a scholarship.
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Country Awards

There are three country awards:

--*Honorable Country Delegations* (top 20% of countries represented at the conference; verbal commendation)
--*Distinguished Country Delegations* (top 10% of countries; certificate)
--*Outstanding Country Delegations* (top 5% of countries; plaque)

Only countries that use all of their assigned committee slots, submit all of their position papers, and attend all committee sessions are eligible. Winning countries are determined based on the number of position paper and individual participation awards received, divided by the number of committees the country is on. Ties will be broken based on the quality of position papers and Region Night attendance and participation.

School Awards

The school awards are as follows:

--*Honorable Schools* (top 30% of schools attending the conference, verbal commendation)
--*Distinguished Schools* (top 20% of schools, certificate)
--*Outstanding Schools* (top 10% of schools, plaque)

These awards are given to the schools that show overall preparedness, participation, and excellence at the conference. For each award, there are two categories: small delegation and large delegation. Schools are divided into small and large delegations based on the number of students they bring to the conference. Winning schools are determined based on the number of position paper and delegate awards received, divided by the number of students from the school. Ties are broken based on the percentage of position papers received and whether registration and other forms are submitted on time.

Staff Awards

There are four staff awards:

--**Vice Chair Award**
   --Honorable Mention (verbal commendation)
   --Best Vice Chair (gavel)
--**Chair Award**
   --Honorable Mention (verbal commendation)
   --Best Chair (gavel)

These awards are presented the best chairs and vice chairs at the conference. Recipients are the chairs and vice chairs who receive the highest percentage of “5’s” on the “effective chair” question of the delegate evaluation form.