

Delegate Dress and Conduct Code

Each year, 350-400 high school students meet at the University of Montana to “represent” countries from across the world. Like real-world diplomats, they participate in UN committees such as the General Assembly and Security Council. By writing, negotiating, and voting on resolutions, students learn to examine international affairs from different perspectives and experience what it is like to cooperate to solve to real-world problems.

OVERVIEW OF EXPECTATIONS

The Montana Model UN (MMUN) Staff expect each student delegate to come to the conference with an understanding of his or her country’s positions and a willingness to use diplomacy and negotiation to forge agreements.

Diplomacy

Delegates must act diplomatically at all times. In other words, they must to conduct themselves with tact and respect while interacting with other delegates, conference staff, and advisors. Diplomacy requires delegates to consider the welfare and interests of their country, while respecting others’ opinions. Diplomacy should be evident in position papers, points and motions, speeches, caucuses, draft resolutions, and voting procedure.

Model UN requires students to act as representatives from UN member states. In committee sessions, delegates do not represent their own beliefs and opinions, but the interests of the country they have been assigned. Delegates must behave as real UN representatives from their country would behave.

Negotiation

The goal of United Nations committees is to write and build consensus for resolutions that express the overall opinion and aims of UN member states and their plans to address world problems.

Resolution-writing and consensus-building are collaborative activities that require negotiation. Negotiation begins during formal committee sessions, when delegates give speeches to explain their positions on particular issues, and continues during caucuses, when delegates discuss their positions, collaborate to write draft resolutions, and compromise to build support.

Throughout the conference, it is important to be friendly, personable and calm. Diplomacy and negotiation require delegates to persuade others of the merits of their ideas, listen to others’ suggestions, and compromise.

DRESS CODE

1. Delegates are encouraged to wear business attire such as suits, pants or skirts with blazers, and modest dresses. Pants or skirts with sweaters and collared shirts are also acceptable. Blue jeans, t-shirts, shorts, short skirts, and other casual attire are prohibited. Students wearing inappropriate attire will be asked to leave the session to change their clothes.

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2. As at the actual UN, national symbols such as flags, pins, and crests are prohibited. MMUN staff will confiscate anything deemed disruptive.
3. MMUN staff will not tolerate any attempt to portray a “character” such as a particular leader or a stereotypical person using cultural attire as a costume. Students who violate this rule will be asked to leave the session to change their clothes.

CONDUCT CODE

1. Delegates must act diplomatically at all times. Students who do not treat their committee staff, fellow delegates, and advisors with respect will be asked to leave the conference.
2. During formal committee sessions, delegates must use parliamentary procedure. This means not speaking unless called on by the Chair, raising one’s placard to be called on, and utilizing the proper point or motion as explained in the MMUN “Rules of Procedure.”
3. Delegates must stay in character at all times. Students must represent their country’s actual or likely positions to the best of their ability, setting aside their personal opinions.
4. Delegates must remember that they are representing diplomats, not heads of state. Thus they are not authorized to take actions reserved for heads of state. Before announcing any change in policy that would normally be initiated by the head of state, delegates must obtain the written approval of their Committee Chair. For more information, see the “Developments Guide.”
5. Cell phones and smart phones must be turned off at all times.
6. Laptops and other computing and word processing devices (such as tablets) must be turned off during opening and closing ceremonies and during all formal committee sessions.
7. During unmoderated caucuses, delegates will either use computers provided in each committee room or their own laptops and other word processing devices (such as tablets) to draft working papers. These devices must be used only for committee purposes, such as drafting and negotiating working papers, draft resolutions, and amendments.
8. Committee staff may check devices at any time to ensure that delegates are using them for conference purposes and will confiscate devices that are used in violation of these rules.
9. All working papers must be formatted in Microsoft Word and must follow the “Resolution Template” posted on the Delegate page of the MMUN website.
10. Delegates who do not adhere to these rules will be warned by their Committee Staff. If the problem continues, they will be reported to their advisors and asked to leave the committee.