

AHS Model UN Club  
October 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

This is to provide you with preliminary information about the AHS Model UN Club's participation in events on three consecutive November weekends: BearMUN 2020 (to be held Nov. 7-8), the 2020 Stanford Model UN Conference (to be held Nov. 12-15), and the 2020 UC Berkeley Model Arab League (to be held November 21-22). All three events will be held online this year, so students will attend these conferences from home. Moreover, students will not have to miss AHS classes to attend these events.<sup>1</sup>

Background: Students attending the conferences will attend simulated sessions of intergovernmental organizations or simulated meetings of other international organizations.

BearMUN is organized by UC Berkeley's competitive Model UN team. It is a relatively new conference; this is our first year attending the conference. We have 16 spots at BearMUN.

The AHS Model UN Club has attended the Stanford Model UN Conference (in person) for over a decade. It is always a terrific experience: the Stanford students are highly imaginative in their development of simulated crises. We have 12 spots at SMUNC this year. About half of those assignments are to represent Mexico in several UN committees; other assignments include Mongolia, South Sudan, and three individuals in two historically oriented crisis simulations.

The UC Berkeley Model Arab League is sponsored by the National Council on US-Arab Relations (NCUSAR). Students attending the Model Arab League will participate in simulated sessions of Arab League councils. The councils will be chaired by the Cal students who organize the annual Berkeley Model United Nations Conference. It is an ideal conference for students new to the world of Model UN. We will be representing Tunisia, Jordan, and Kuwait at this conference, and can "bring" approximately 15 students.

How to Sign Up: Students may sign up for one or more of the conferences by completing a Google form. Later today, the Google form will be sent to all students on the Club's email mailing list of 2020-21 Club members. Club members interested in attending any of the conferences should complete and submit the Google Form by October 21. Students should not sign up to attend any conference without checking their schedules, and with their parents, guardians, coaches, music teachers, etc., to make certain that they will be free for the entire conference and able to submit position papers on time. **It is disrespectful to other students to sign up for a conference, take a spot and drop out a few weeks later. This effectively prevents another student from attending a conference that they would like to attend; by the time a student drops out, it is usually too late for another student to prepare for the conference and take the spot.**

---

<sup>1</sup> The Stanford Conference will hold opening ceremonies on Thursday evening, Nov. 12; committee sessions will be held on Friday evening, Nov. 13, Saturday, Nov. 14, and Sunday, Nov. 15. Former US National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster will speak online to interested delegates to the Stanford Conference from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm on Thursday, Nov. 12; attendance at this speech is optional.

Spots for the BearMUN and Stanford Conferences will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, with this exception: returning Club members will have preference in signing up for the BearMUN and the Stanford Conferences. Returning members will initially be assigned to only one of these two Conferences. If there are untaken positions in either Conference after all Club members interested in attending one of the three conferences have been assigned to one, Club members interested in attending both the BearMUN and Stanford Conferences will be allowed to do so.

Spots for the Berkeley Model Arab League will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, with this exception: new Club members will have preference in signing up for the Model Arab League. If there are untaken positions in the Model Arab League after all Club members interested in attending one of the three conferences have been assigned to one, Club members interested in attending the Model Arab League in addition to another conference will be allowed to do so.

Registration Fees: California Education Code section 35330 allows us to ask parents and guardians to contribute an amount that covers the expenses associated with the participation of their student in an extracurricular event. No student may be denied the opportunity to participate in the event if the student's parents or guardians do not make the requested contribution. The per-student expense associated with each of the three conferences (i.e., the registration fee for each conference) is as follows:

BearMUN: \$15 per student

Stanford Model UN Conference: \$28 per student

Model Arab League: \$10 per student

Once you know which conference(s) your student will be attending, and if you are able to do so, please pay all relevant registration fees in the same check. Please do so by Oct. 27, 2020.

**Payment should be made by check made payable to Albany High School. Please write the words "Model UN Club" and the name of your student on the memo line of your check.** Please mail your check to:

Albany High School Bookkeeper  
Albany High School  
603 Key Route Blvd.  
Albany, CA 94706

Please note that **all payments are non-refundable**. Students unable to pay the full cost of registering for the conferences they are attending, or their parents, should notify me by phone call or email so that I will not send them payment reminder notices.

Paperwork: All students will be attending the conferences online, from their homes. Accordingly, this is not a field trip and there is no AUSD paperwork for parents to complete. Nonetheless, I will be dropping into different committee sessions, at different times, at each conference, and I will be in contact with the conference organizers throughout each conference. Moreover, because students will be participating in the conferences as part of an AHS Club, all

AHS rules governing student conduct that apply to online classes apply to students participating in the conferences.

The organizers of each conference may ask parents and guardians to complete information forms, liability waivers, etc. on behalf of their minor children. They may ask 18-year-old students to complete the same forms. They may also ask all students to complete forms acknowledging that they have read and agree to abide by the conference's code of delegate conduct. Obviously, the organizers of the conference will not allow students to participate if they and their parents have not completed required forms by the deadlines the organizers establish.

Position papers: Students are expected to submit position papers to the organizers of each conference on a schedule established by the organizers. **By signing up to attend a conference, a student commits to submitting a position paper, researched and written to the best of the student's ability, by the deadline established by the organizers of the conference.** The officers of the AHS Model UN Club and I are here to help students start their research and organize their papers, and to review drafts of position papers – though, obviously, these are things that cannot be done at the last minute! A student who does not submit a position paper for a conference for which the student has signed up may be prevented from attending the conference (in that circumstance, the student's family will not be refunded any registration fees paid on their behalf) or may be prevented from attending one or more conferences the Club attends in the future. Unlike many schools, we do not require students to “try out” for the AHS Model UN Club – but we do expect every member of the Club to take their responsibilities to the team seriously, and to do their best work.

Dress: This is a simulated international conference; students must dress appropriately. Male students must wear jackets and ties to all conference sessions, unless specifically directed otherwise by their committee chair. Female students should wear comparable business attire. Students identifying as non-binary should check with me about appropriate clothing.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [kjames@ausdk12.org](mailto:kjames@ausdk12.org) or at 510-579-4287.

Very truly yours,

Kevin James  
Adviser, AHS Model UN Club