

SMCHS Model United Nations (MUN)



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

What is MUN?

MUN stands for Model United Nations. Students travel to other schools in Orange County, California, the US, and overseas to compete in academic competitions. These competitions are simulations of the United Nations, and the students play the role of delegates representing countries from all over the world. These competitions are one to three days in length and are held on the weekends. The MUN program is integrated into the Social Studies curriculum for those students who are interested in this unique experience. Students must take Cultural Geography / Model United Nations their freshman year to be involved with the MUN program.



Why join?

✦ Benefits of MUN Participation:

- **Enhance Your Communication Skills:** Engage in passionate debates, articulate your ideas, and master the art of public speaking. MUN hones your communication skills like no other activity.
- **Critical Thinking & Problem-Solving:** Dive deep into complex global challenges. Learn to analyze situations, propose solutions, and develop a critical mindset that will serve you well in academics and beyond.
- **Global Awareness:** Expand your horizons by delving into international affairs. Gain a deep understanding of global issues, geopolitics, and different cultures.
- **Leadership Development:** MUN empowers you to take charge, build consensus, and lead teams. These leadership skills are invaluable for your future endeavors.
- **Networking:** Connect with like-minded students from around the world. MUN conferences provide opportunities to build lasting friendships and professional networks.
- **College & Career Advantage:** Colleges and universities highly value MUN experience. It's an impressive addition to your resume and can open doors to scholarships and prestigious institutions.
- **Travel Opportunities:** As someone who enjoys traveling, MUN allows you to explore new cities and countries while participating in conferences. Combine your passion for travel with meaningful learning experiences.
- **Make a Difference:** Feel the satisfaction of advocating for change. MUN provides a platform to address global issues and make a positive impact on the world.
- Whether you aspire to be a diplomat, a CEO, or an advocate for change, Model United Nations equips you with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in the global arena.

What's the commitment?

- Freshman Cultural Geography / Model United Nations is a yearlong course taken instead of the Freshman Health Seminar class.
- **MUN students need to take Health class either during the summer or as an elective.**
 - You should not take the Health class unless you are 100% certain you will stay in the MUN class for the entire year.
- Students are required to attend four weekend conferences.
- MUN is a four-year program. While students are not required to be in the program all four years, you may not join unless you have taken Cultural Geography / MUN.
- There is a \$500 yearly program fee to participate in MUN.



Can you handle the challenge?

We hope so! If you have questions about Cultural Geography / Model United Nations please feel free to email the MUN director Mr. John Remmell: remmellj@smhs.org

Visit the website at: <http://www.smhs.org/mun>



MUN FAQ for Incoming Freshmen

Q: What is Model United Nations (MUN)?

MUN is a simulation of the real United Nations. Students act as delegates and represent different countries at a mock meeting of the U.N. Other delegates from other schools represent different countries. All of the students come together to discuss different issues facing the world. Some of the issues might be deforestation, HIV/AIDS, conflict in Israel and Palestine, and many more. Students write position papers, make speeches, and work in small groups as part of the process. These simulations are called conferences and the conferences are held on the weekends. MUN conferences for freshmen are typically Saturdays from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Q: What are the requirements for joining MUN?

An interest in international politics and a desire to learn more about MUN is the biggest requirement. A composite score of 550 on the HSPT (high school placement exam) is required. You will take an entire year of Geography/MUN instead of the freshman health seminar. That means you will have to take Health during the summer or as an elective.

Q: Do I have to take Health class during summer school?

Yes. You will take an entire year of Geography/MUN instead of a semester of Geography and a semester of Health. That means you will have to take Health during the summer or as an elective. You do not necessarily need to take it this summer, but you need to complete the class before your junior year. It is a California state graduation requirement.

Q: How do I sign up for summer school?

You can sign up online starting in April. The MUN teachers are not involved with the health class. The best person to help you with this would be your counselor. <https://www.smhs.org/academics/summer-school>

Q: Do I have to do MUN all four years?

No, you do not need to take MUN for all four years. You are only signing up for Freshman year. You can decide after your freshman year whether you want to continue in MUN for your Sophomore year or not.

Q: Is MUN an honors class?

Yes, it is an honors class. You should sign up for MUN because you are legitimately interested in the course not just for the honors credit. Students that take MUN just for honors credit tend to be the least enthusiastic MUNers and regret their choice.

Q: I am taking many honors classes will this be too much work?

Most MUNers are enrolled in many honors classes. MUN is not going to be the most difficult honors class you take. If you are worried about overloading your schedule, you should eliminate one of your other honors courses.

Q: What if I do (any activity), can I still do MUN?

You only need to attend four conferences during the school year on Saturday. If you have four open Saturdays in your schedule, you should be fine. Most reasonable students can handle MUN in their schedule. You will need to check your activity schedule and identify any potential conflicts. Your MUN teachers are always willing to help you out with schedule conflicts.

Q: What if I am afraid of public speaking?

Most people are afraid of public speaking. As long as you are willing to work on getting better and try it, you should be fine. However, you WILL have to get up and speak in front of people as part of this course. This is not negotiable. If you refuse to speak in front of others, this is not a course for you. If you are uncomfortable, but want to get better, we can work with you.

Q: What makes someone good at MUN?

Do any of these words describe you? Hardworking, motivated, self-starter, proactive, outgoing, argumentative, driven, leader, social, ambitious, reliable, punctual, planner, organized.

Q: Can I travel with MUN?

Not during Freshman year but starting with Sophomore year you can travel. Once you get to be a Junior you can start traveling with MUN to colleges on the East Coast or internationally.

Q: What does it cost to be in MUN?

There is a yearly fee of \$500 per student. This covers the cost of all local conferences.

Q: What about the MUN Summer Sessions?

There is a special summer camp for MUNers that want to get a head start learning about MUN. This is optional and not required to be in MUN. The cost for the summer camp is \$175. This might be an opportunity to explore whether your student would want to take this class for a whole year.



**Totally
Optional**



For Incoming Freshmen

● SMCHS MUN Summer Boot Camp

Get a head start on becoming an award-winning delegate!

Are you interested in joining Model United Nations (MUN)?

Jump-start your freshman year by enrolling in the SMCHS MUN Boot Camp — a fun and interactive summer session designed just for incoming freshmen!

This camp will give you a look into what participating in MUN will be like. You'll also get to meet and collaborate with other future MUN Eagles!

Program Highlights:

- ✓ Learn essential MUN skills
- ✓ Receive laptop training (students will get their SM laptops at camp, if available)
- ✓ Enjoy lunch each day
- ✓ Make new friends and start your MUN journey early!

📍 **Location:** Santa Margarita Catholic High School, B110

💰 **Cost:** \$175

🍴 Lunch provided daily

- This optional camp is the perfect way to build confidence, learn new skills, and begin your MUN adventure before the school year starts!

<https://payit.nelnet.net/form/xHgRn>



- (limit 32 students per session, enrollment ends June 23rd)
- *All sessions are the same, so you only need to sign up for one*

📅 2026 Dates:

- Session 1: July 7-9 11:30 am to 2:30 pm
- Session 2: July 14-16 11:30 am to 2:30 pm
- Session 3: July 21-23 11:30 am to 2:30 pm
- Registration online (store opens Freshman Scheduling Night)

MUN Freshman Conference Requirements

You must attend four conferences during the year.

Academic grades are affected by conference participation.



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Freshman Required Conferences (4)

SOCOMUN (Sept. 26, 2026)

Tustin Novice (November-Sat.
Before Thanksgiving)

Edison Novice (January)

Huntington Beach Novice (April)

Freshman Optional Conferences

Cerritos (October)

Mira Costa Novice (December)

Laguna Hills (February)

University (March)