



bestdelegate

CONFERENCE SELECTION STRATEGY GUIDE

*Determining What Conferences are Best for
Your Team & How to Succeed at Them*



One of the most important jobs of a Head Delegate comes long before training their delegates for a conference, or supervising their delegation at a conference. Choosing a conference to take your team to has an enormous impact on how much they learn, how much fun your team has, how much it costs to travel to the conference, and what types of awards and recognition your team may be able to take away from the conference. By following this guide, you'll learn the key steps to selecting the perfect conferences for your team, whatever your goal may be.

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TYPES OF CONFERENCES

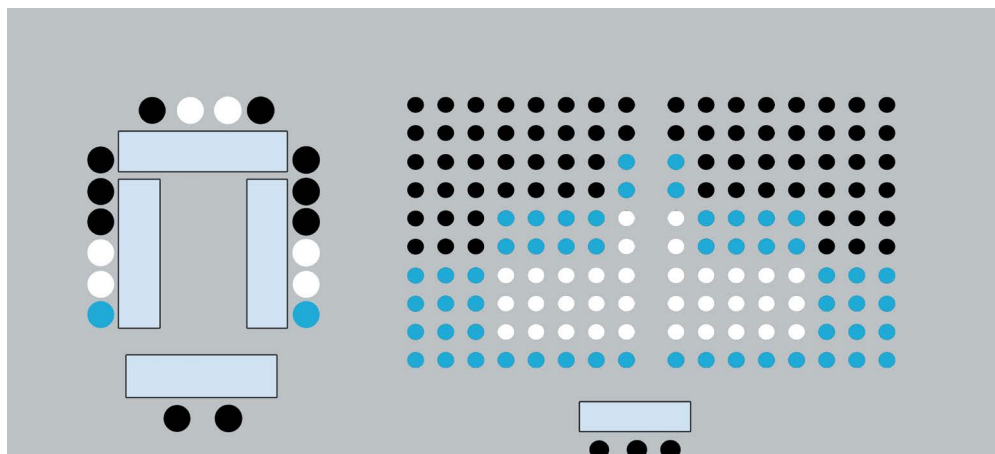
There are a wide range of Model UN conferences all over the world. Conferences run from 100-3,500 participants, and can be held at the local, state, national, and even international levels. It's important to identify what type of conference is right for your team, so you can identify which conferences are right for you.

Small Committees vs. Large Committees

90% of what delegates will remember from the events at a Model UN conference is their experience in committee. At a conference with small committees, delegates will have a great opportunity to practice their public speaking, resolution writing, and procedural skills, because they'll be able to constantly participate. At a conference with large committees, delegates will be practicing their negotiation and leadership skills more, because there are so many more delegates to work with and fewer speaking opportunities. You can imagine how much different your experience would be in either sized committee by looking at the chart below- if you don't know the committee size at a conference, just ask them!

SMALL

LARGE



TYPES OF CONFERENCES

LEVELS

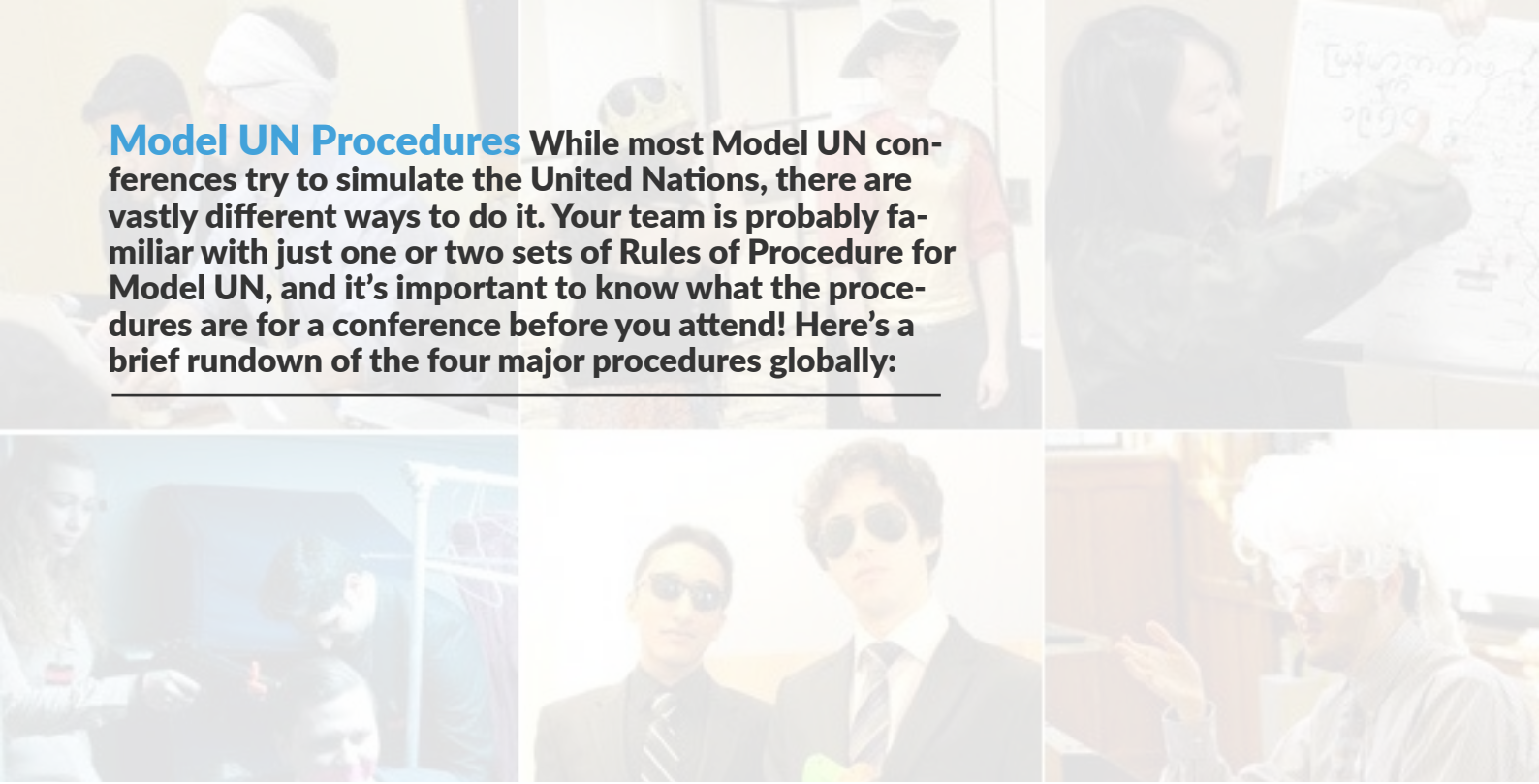


Educational vs. Competitive Motivation

While all Model UN conferences are an educational experience, the culture of a conference can vary widely based on the motivation of the staff and the students participating. At a conference where the participants are motivated by competition, delegates will be less cooperative and more driven to “win” rather than to negotiate with others. At an educational conference, delegates are motivated by simulating VS Small Large the United Nations, learning about the world, negotiating with other students, and acting as a World Leader for a few days. As a general rule, conferences held by NGOs (like UNA-USA or IMUNA) tend to be more educational, and conferences held by major universities (like Georgetown’s NAIMUN or Harvard’s HMUN) can be more competitive. All competitive conferences have awards, others may not.

Novice vs. Advanced

If you take a team of completely new delegates to a competitive conference, they’re not likely to have a great time. If you take a group of advanced delegates to a novice conference, you’re going to make a lot of enemies when your MUN veterans dominate all the new delegates at the conference. For new delegates, we recommend training conferences- these are often 1 or 2-day conferences held by local high schools or community organizations that are all about learning Model UN. For advanced delegates looking for a challenge, state-wide, nation-wide, or even international conferences may be the right way to go to find the right level of debate.



Model UN Procedures While most Model UN conferences try to simulate the United Nations, there are vastly different ways to do it. Your team is probably familiar with just one or two sets of Rules of Procedure for Model UN, and it's important to know what the procedures are for a conference before you attend! Here's a brief rundown of the four major procedures globally:

01

North American Procedure

Originating in North America and expanded internationally by conferences run by Harvard and Global Classrooms, North American Procedure is based on U.S. Congressional Procedure. Nearly every conference in North America uses this procedure, along with much of Latin America, as well as some university conferences in Europe and other enclaves around the world. This procedure is characterized by alternating periods of debate (in a "Moderated Caucus") and resolution writing (in an "Unmoderated Caucus") every 15-30 minutes.

02

THIMUN Procedure

THIMUN Procedure is the procedure used by The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN) and over 50 THIMUN-affiliated conferences around the world. It is the most used procedure in Europe, Southeast Asia, and other parts of the globe. THIMUN procedure starts with a full day of negotiations and resolution writing (lobbying), followed by long periods of debate about each resolution.

03

UN4MUN Procedure

UN4MUN Procedure was developed by the United Nations Department of Public Information to help Model UN conferences more closely simulate the United Nations, and is based around the core principles of the United Nations: sovereignty, equality, and consensus. Using nearly the exact procedures as the real United Nations, UN4MUN features Chairs elected from among the delegates, only one main speech per delegate, lots of focus on resolutions, and the ultimate goal of each committee adopting one resolution by consensus. This is the newest procedure, but is quickly growing around the world with WFUNA International Model United Nations (WIMUN) as the standard-bearer.

04

Crisis Procedure

Crisis Procedure isn't so much a set of Rules of Procedure as it is an entirely different kind of committee. Instead of simulating UN bodies and regional organizations, crisis committees tend to represent national cabinets or other groups facing "crises", that the committee needs to respond to. Each individual delegate can use their "portfolio" to take action, while the committee writes "directives" to deal with the constantly-evolving crisis. These committees are normally very small (15-20 delegates), and are often found at North American Procedure conferences.

SELECTING A CONFERENCE

COSTS & LOCATIONS

**SO NOW THAT
YOU KNOW THE
DIFFERENT TYPES
OF CONFERENCES
TO CONSIDER, YOU
NEED TO THINK
ABOUT THE OTHER
STUFF; GETTING TO
THE CONFERENCE
AND PAYING FOR IT.**

Conference Geography

How far a conference is from your school is the #1 determining factor for whether or not your team can or should attend. The geography of a contest determines how many people can go, how much the conference will cost for your team to attend, and how much school your team will miss. Generally, you can break down a conference's distance into three main categories, based on how you can get there. These can be categorized as **Commuting Conferences** (that you can commute to each day), **Hotel Conferences** (that you can drive or take a bus to at the beginning and end, but need to stay in a hotel during the conference), and **Flight Conferences** (that you need to fly to, and book a hotel for while you're there). While travelling further can be more fun, it's a lot more expensive.

You can always find conferences in your area by checking out the **Best Delegate Conference Databases** - visit bestdelegate.com/conferences to get started.

Conference Costs

Whether your team has a budget or each delegate is paying for themselves, how much a conference costs can limit or enhance your ability to travel with bigger or smaller teams, and go to more or fewer conferences. Be strategic, and plan out a conference schedule that lets your team travel while also being financially responsible. Here are some examples for how much it could cost to participate with 12 delegates and one Faculty Advisor at a Commuting Conference, Hotel Conference, and Flight Conference. Make sure to try to travel with a multiple of 4 delegates- this helps keep hotel costs down!

SAMPLE CONFERENCE COSTS

Commuter Conference Costs			
Expense	Cost	Quantity	Total
Delegation Fee	75	1	75
Delegate Fees	50	12	600
Transportation (None)	0	0	0
Lodging (None)	0	0	0
		Total Cost	\$ 675.00
		Cost/Delegate	\$ 56.25

Hotel Conference Costs			
Expense	Cost	Quantity	Total
Delegation Fee	75	1	75
Delegate Fees	50	12	600
Transportation (Cars or Bus)	1000	1	1000
Lodging (4 Hotel Nights)	600	4	2400
		Total Cost	\$4,075.00
		Cost/Delegate	\$ 339.58

Flight Conference Costs			
Expense	Cost	Quantity	Total
Delegation Fee	75	1	75
Delegate Fees	50	12	600
Transportation (Flights)	300	13	3900
Lodging (4 Hotel Nights)	600	4	2400
		Total Cost	\$ 6,975.00
		Cost/Delegate	\$ 581.25

CALCULATING DELEGATION AWARDS

We've explained delegation sizes, lean vs. mass teams, and award values, now look at this sample award calculation to see how these factors together determine who wins a delegation award. This sample score sheet shows a normal proportional scoring conference with three large and three small delegations. Notice how in both the small and large delegation classes, the delegations with the most delegates had the highest raw score- simply put, they had more opportunities to win awards! However, the "Ratio Score" is what determines the winner, and the teams that traveled "lean" for their group won the "Best Delegation" awards, rather than bigger teams. Identify what score you'll need to win a delegation award at your upcoming conference, and figure out how many delegates you should take to get your team there!

Delegation	Delegates	Honorable (1)	Outstanding (2)	Best (3)	Raw Score	Ratio Score	Delegation Award
A	5	1	1	1	6	1.2	Best Small
B	8	4	1	1	9	1.125	Outstanding Small
C	10	1	2	2	11	1.1	N/A
D	12	1	2	2	11	0.917	Best Large
E	16	3	1	3	14	0.875	N/A
F	20	2	2	4	18	0.9	Outstanding Large

ASSEMBLING YOUR TEAM

OKAY, YOU'VE DETERMINED WHAT TYPE OF CONFERENCES ARE BEST FOR YOUR TEAM AND CHOSEN A CONFERENCE, NOW YOU HAVE TO DETERMINE HOW MANY DELEGATES TO BRING, AND WHO'S GOING! WE'VE CREATED A STRATEGY TO MAXIMIZE YOUR CHANCES AT A DELEGATION AWARD. IF YOUR TEAM ISN'T INTERESTED IN WINNING DELEGATION AWARDS, YOU CAN SKIP THIS SECTION!

For your team to win delegation awards at competitive conferences, it's important for you to understand the two different types of scoring for delegation awards. The first is **Raw Score Delegation Awards** - this form of scoring simply counts the total number of points or awards for each team, and assigns delegation awards based on that number. Raw Scoring conferences are rare. The more popular method is known as Proportional Scoring or Ratio Scoring. In a **Proportional Scoring** system, the total number of awards or points in each delegation is divided by their number of delegates, so that the teams bringing the most delegates don't get all the awards.

Lean vs. Mass Teams

Consider if you want to be a "Mass" team or a "Lean" team. A "Mass" team brings as many delegates as possible to a conference to maximize individual awards, their "raw score", and so a large group of delegates can all experience the conference and improve their abilities. A "Lean" team travels only with their best delegates that have a good chance of winning awards, so that they are more competitive for delegation awards in a Proportional Scoring system.

Award Values

Not all awards are created equal. When calculating delegation awards, different "point" values are assigned to each type of award. Usually 3 points are awarded for a "Best Delegate" award, 2 points for an

"Outstanding Delegate" award, and 1 point for an "Honorable Delegate" award. While the names and point values of these awards may vary, it's almost always true that different tiers of awards are given different value, and those values have an enormous impact on who receives delegation awards.

Large and Small Delegations

Most conferences split their delegation awards into two different tiers- "Large Delegations" and "Small Delegations". Delegations of over 10 students are often considered "Large", while 10 and under are considered "Small". The most common system for delegation awards is for a "Best Delegation" and "Outstanding Delegation" award to be given in each category, resulting in 4 total delegation awards. Consider how many team members you have, and figure out which award class you'll be in before the conference!

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

ONCE YOU'VE CHOSEN A CONFERENCE AND DETERMINED HOW MANY DELEGATES WILL GO, YOU NEED TO DECIDE WHO WILL BE IN EACH COMMITTEE! OBVIOUSLY, YOU SHOULD TAKE DELEGATE PREFERENCES INTO ACCOUNT, BUT YOUR GOAL HERE IS TO PUT DELEGATES IN THE COMMITTEE WHERE THEY CAN BEST PERFORM, AND HAVE THE BEST CHANCE OF WINNING AWARDS THAT WILL INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF A DELEGATION AWARD.



Committee Size

Earlier we explained how small committees give delegates more opportunities to speak and participate. There's an added bonus to these committees- usually, they offer more awards per delegate. In a committee of 15 delegates, there may be 3-5 awards given out. In a committee of 200 delegates, there will likely be 5-10 awards given out- clearly, you have a better shot of awards in crisis committees. Make sure to put strong delegates in all the crisis and small committees you can to maximize their shot at an award.

Anticipating Competitive Committees

You know the committees your MUN team gets excited about, and fights over being assigned to? All the other MUN clubs are fighting for the same spots, so the most popular committees tend to have the highest concentration of competitive delegates. Keep an eye out for UN Security Council, US National Security Council, Ad Hoc, and other popular committees- it'll be much harder to get awards in these committees because there will be such a high concentration of advanced delegates. The same goes for less popular committees- your best shot at awards may be in the World Health Organization or Legal Committee, because these committees tend to be avoided by the more competitive delegates.

Double Delegates

Double delegate assignments can be a great opportunity for delegates to learn how to work as a team, but they can be brutal on your chances for a delegation award. Even though it takes two delegates to win an award in these committees, it's only worth one for delegation award calculations. This means that if you put two of your strongest delegates together in a double-delegate committee, you're wasting your chances for another award! We recommend putting your newer delegates in double-delegate committees, or partnering your more senior members with a younger member so they can learn without wasting a shot at another individual award.

The background image shows a Model United Nations conference. Several students are seated at long tables, holding up white placards with country names. The placards visible are for Liberia, New Zealand, and Kenya. The students are dressed in formal attire, including blazers and ties. The setting appears to be a large hall or auditorium with a clock on the wall in the background.

Liberia

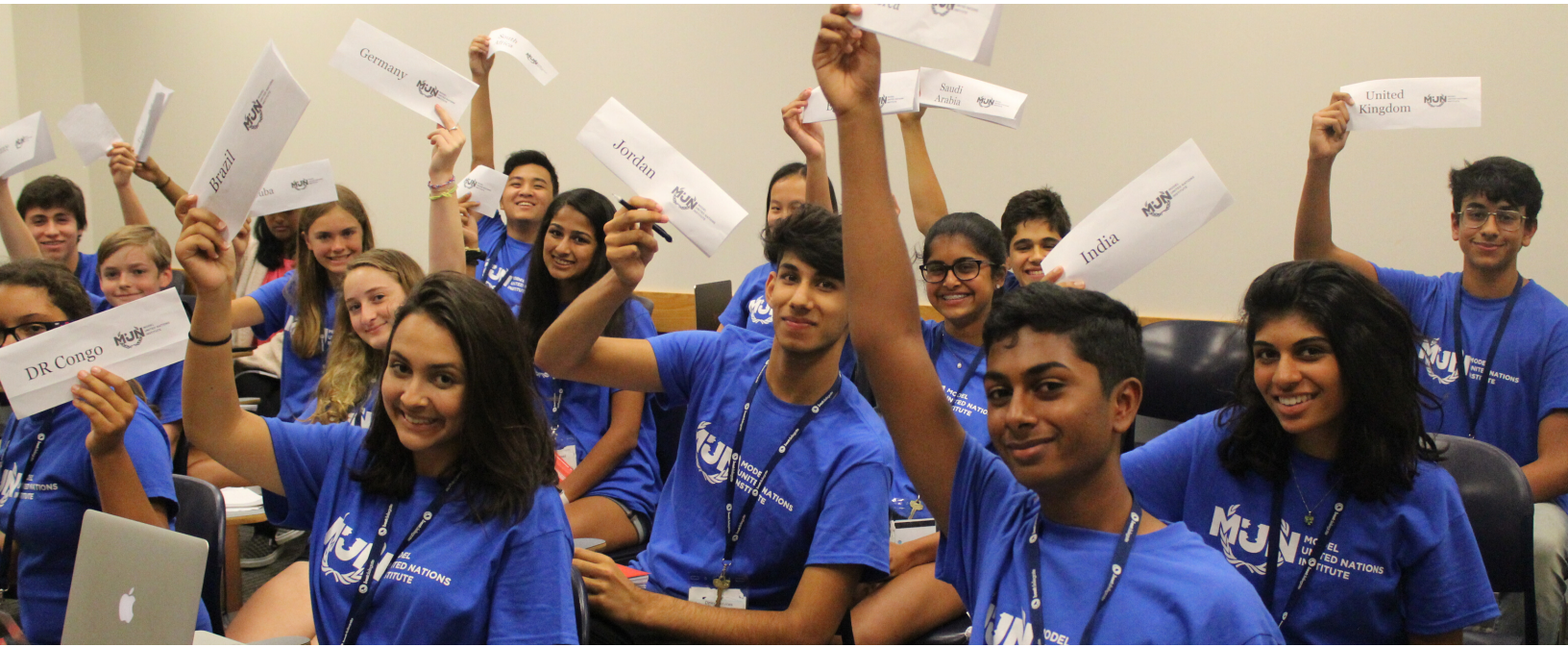


Kenya

**NOW THAT YOU
KNOW HOW TO
CHOOSE THE RIGHT
CONFERENCE FOR
YOUR TEAM, WE
HOPE YOU HAVE A
WONDERFUL
EXPERIENCE!**



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UPenn

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Fordham - Westchester

Emory University

University of Miami

UCLA

UC Berkeley

UC Irvine

DePaul - Loop Campus

University of Houston

OUR STUDENTS...

- Learn from passionate & professional staff
- Receive personalized instruction
- Gain self-confidence
- Access advanced Model UN resources
- Meet new friends from around the world



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