

# RECOGNIZING UNITED

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An article on Hoover's United Nations delegation and perspectives determined as it's integral part.

Team spirit, memorable moments, free shirts, trivia mastery, college application boost and public speaking - those are all things that connect to Hoover's Model UN team!

Model United Nations began operating at Hoover High this October, and it has been a really good experience for all participants.

Almost a month ago, five Hoover students had a chance to attend something introduced to the school - a Model United Nations conference. For all those who don't know what Model UN is - it is an activity consisting of a series of conferences, which have students from a range of schools take on positions of different nations on issues considered by UN committees and work together under parliamentary procedure to create a shared resolution. The team's advisor (main coach) Ayumi Paradise-Flores describes Model United Nations as comparable but different from Speech&Debate;

"Model UN is very closely related, but it doesn't work the same or follow the same laws, but I think it relies on the same skills. So what would be closest is congressional debate, but even what we do for congress looks different because for congress we write bills and then debate them later. Whereas Model UN is almost solely focused on the amendment process, which is more dynamic, and rarely done in debate," Paradise-Flores said.

Model UN team will resume

preparations promptly in winter, for the next upcoming conference in spring. This year's spring conference will be the second one for HHS Model UN conference.

"This year is two conferences, one that happened on October 31st and November 1st, and one in the spring. So I would say that it is a pretty relaxed schedule, and not that big of a commitment" Aidan Jones, one of the delegates said.

With the spring conference also comes a chance for more people to go, and a perspective of a trip outside of Des Moines, compared to fall conference being in the State Capitol.

"I think that the spring conference might be a thing that people should consider, even if they didn't attend in the fall, we're hoping to add more people for the spring, it is going to be amazing. There's a few things that we're going to do. We get to travel to the University of Northern Iowa and stay in a hotel, and then we have two days



*United Nations flag  
Photo Courtesy of: Openclipart*

## SPEECH & DEBATE

Both Speech and Debate events are competitions - whoever delivers the best speech/argument wins

In speech events maximal amount of people is two - Duo Interp. In debate most common events are 1v1 (1L1D) 2v2 (2L1) and Congress (up to 20 participants)

Multiple tournaments through the season. Hoover team has averaged two tournaments a month this season. State and National qualifiers towards the end of a season. Best competitors qualify to take part in bigger tournaments.

VS

## MODEL UN

Model UN is an event based on cooperation. Main focus during a conference is creating a resolution through democratic amendment process

Model UN conferences are separated into committees based on real UN. Delegates choose their committees. Most Model UN committees are much larger than congress debate, averaging 30-60. Model UN offers less variety - Speech&Debate events have different rules and themes between one another, in comparison Model UN committees are only different themes with different amounts of people going. Model UN is based on parliamentary procedure (like congress) and amendment process. Conferences happen once or twice a semester in Iowa.

where we're going to be in

session for Model UN, and we're going to be representing a country. But just that idea of representing a country and coming from another perspective, I think and not only that, so we will be spending the night.

The Model UN at UNI has some social activities planned - there's a dance that evening and there is an opportunity to meet students from other schools. I think even if you go just for the social aspect that's fine, we'll get you going with the rest of it. So those are some things people should think about when they consider whether to join. I think one of the most important aspects is that



*Hoover High Model UN delegation during the first day (pre-plenary delegation)*

*Photo Courtesy of Ayumi Paradise-Flores*

might be another good reason to join.

"Model UN is constantly changing and refraining what we think based on our interactions with others. That's the most awesome thing about it because that's what happens in life, and it helps you prepare for other competitions or even your English class and it looks

**"BECAUSE SIMPSON COLLEGE ACTUALLY GAVE OUT FREE SHIRTS WHICH WAS TOTALLY COOL, ALSO ITS JUST GOOD TO BUILD CONNECTIONS, ESPECIALLY WITH THOSE COLLEGES YOU MIGHT BE WANTING TO APPLY TO," - FRESHMAN VICTORIA HERRIN SAID.**

you can gain is just that experience of putting yourself in another person or country's position in this way," Paradise-Flores said.

The spring conference is an event current delegates excitedly await, as it is will be bigger than the one that already happened. The main difference between the two is the fact that this time it won't be just U.S. position, instead schools can choose countries that are UN members. While just looking forward toward certain aspects is one thing, some members have specific things they want to happen.

"I hope we get Haiti, my home country. But I also hope that we get a really cool topic," freshman Victoria Herrin said.

But Model UN is something more than a field trip and public speaking, mixed with meeting a lot of people from other schools. It is – not only a leadership activity also something you can have learn skills from, according to the participants.

"You become really good at trivia games and it looks good on a college application. Also just meeting

good on your resume when you're preparing your college applications," Paradise-Flores said.

So if you are thinking about whether experience is needed to join – it isn't, but some activities might be helpful. Currently all the delegates are also Speech&Debate members, but that isn't the only activity which might make it easier to do well in Model UN.

"I would say that any of Miss Kings IHSSA speech, whether it's individual or large group or drama and performing and the musical or the play, and doing academic decathlon with Miss Kinder - it has a speaking portion as well. Honestly, anything that requires students to speak, even your English classes, almost all of them now require you to prepare and present. So that background is something that will help. Conversely, joining Model UN helps you practice doing that more often and get more comfortable. It will help you in both academic and activity areas," Paradise-Flores said.