



Humanities Club FAQ: Model United Nations & National History Day



What is Model United Nations? In Model UN or MUN, you pretend to represent a country. You advocate and negotiate to resolve world problems, similar to the real United Nations. A topic and country will be assigned to you, and you will research about that topic to prepare a position based on that country's perspective. Then, you will attend one or more Saturday all-day conferences. Here is a video about MUN (watch from a home device): <https://bit.ly/2mtwPuh>

Note: All grades may participate in MUN at RMS.

What is National History Day? NHD is a contest for secondary students, but it is really much more than just a contest. It is a way to learn about a specific topic of your choice and develop a project in the medium of your choice (website, drama, documentary, exhibit, or research paper). Every year has a different theme. This year, it is "Breaking Barriers in History." For more information, see NHD.org.

Note: Only 8th graders may participate in NHD at RMS.

I'm in 8th grade. Can I participate in both? No, because it is too much work. Please pick one or the other.

When and where are the meetings? Club meetings will be held after school on Tuesdays from 2:45-3:30 in either Room 230 (Mrs. Kernish – MUN) or Room 152 (Ms. Read). Listen to the morning announcements, as we may not meet every week. Our first meeting will be on **Oct. 15**. If you are interested but cannot attend, please email the advisors (dkernish@lwsd.org or greed@lwsd.org).

What kind of time commitment will there be? It's a big commitment, but one many enjoy.

MUN conferences (6th through 8th graders) are all day on Saturdays. The first opportunity is EduMUN at Northwest University on Nov. 2. There is very little preparation for this conference because it is where you learn how to do MUN. The other conferences are like mock meetings of the United Nations. You will write and submit a *position paper* about your assigned country and topic. The month prior to each conference is the main preparatory period. Conference dates and locations are TBD. Both will be at high schools in the district.

NHD projects (8th grade only) are due in January, so you'll probably have to put in time throughout the fall and over Winter Break. Those who qualify from RMS will rise to the regional NHD juried competition on March 7 at LWHS for those who create exhibits, dramatic performances, and documentaries. Research papers and websites are judged remotely. Projects that go on to the state will compete at Central Washington University on May 4. RMS consistently has a few entries that reach the national level. The 2020 National Contest will be held June 14-18, 2020 at the University of Maryland.

How much do these competitions cost? Well, it depends. Your family will have to pay for fees and travel for competitions or conferences, but if you are in financial need, please see your RMS counselor. Do not let the potential cost be a barrier to participation.

Can I join and participate with my friends? Yes. Both Model UN and NHD have team options.

What will I learn? You'll learn or refine skills in the humanities: academic research, academic writing, public speaking, and giving presentations. These are life skills, no matter your future career path. You'll also learn about history, politics, and current events. You'll also make new friends!

I'm in 8th Grade Quest, so should I join? Yes, but only because you either want additional work time for NHD, which you're doing in class, or because you also want to participate in Model United Nations.

I'm in 6th or 7th Grade Quest, so should I join? Yes. You will only be able to participate in Model United Nations. (NHD is for 8th graders only.)

I'm not in Quest, so should I join? YES! This is a great way to gain public speaking experience and engage in academic research. This club feeds into similar clubs at the high school level. Many colleges also have MUN.

JOIN HERE

OK, I'm in! How do I join? Students—not adults! You need an LWSD account—please complete the form here: <https://bit.ly/2kZfJ78>