

## **PAYSON AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE – DECEMBER 14, 2013**

The Payson High School Model UN Club is excited to announce the First Annual Payson Area Middle School United Nations Conference (PAMSMUN)!

- Saturday, December 14, 2013
- 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Payson High School
- Lunch will be provided

Due to a generous donation from the Payson Association for Advanced Learners (PAAL), PAMSMUN is open to all middle school students (Grades 6-8) in the Payson Area **FREE OF CHARGE** (this includes home schooled students, on-line charter school students, Pine and Strawberry Students, and Payson Christian Academy students)!!!

PAMSMUN will be a one-day “learning conference.” Our goal is to introduce middle school students to the Model UN experience in a relaxed yet engaging environment. This conference will be appropriate for both students who have done Model UN before and for students who have never even heard of Model UN before!

If you would like to sign up to bring students to PACSMUN, or if you would like to arrange for members of the Payson High School Club to come to your middle school to further explain what Model UN is all about in advance of PAMSMUN, please contact our parent advisor Laurel Wala at 928-978-2448 or [lwala@phoenixlawgroup.com](mailto:lwala@phoenixlawgroup.com).

Once you sign up for PACSMUN, we will tell you which country or countries have been assigned to your school (there should be a separate country for each student). The topic of our conference will be **BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL WARFARE**. Once a student has his/her country assignment, he/she should research what is his/her country’s position regarding child labor and try to brainstorm solutions to the problems caused by child labor. The Payson High School MUN Club will be preparing and sending out a background paper on child labor that your students can use to help guide their research. If we end up getting more than 30 middle school students to sign up for PAMSMUN, we will open up a second committee with the topic of **CHILD LABOR**. If we do end up having two committees, each student will only be assigned to one or the other—they will not participate in both.

Once your students have completed their research, they may want to write a position paper. A position paper is a three-paragraph, one-page paper regarding:

- What has the United Nations done with respect to the issue
- What has the particular country done with respect to the issue
- Any proposed solutions

These papers are optional, but we will be giving an award for the Best Position Paper at PAMSMUN. Students who have written a position paper should bring an extra copy that they can turn in for

evaluation when they arrive at PAMSMUN on December 14, 2013. Position Papers can also be used to prepare speeches to give at the conference.

### **What is the Model UN?**

Model United Nations is not associated with the United Nations, but is an interactive learning experience that not only involves students in the study and discussion of global issues but also encourages the development of skills useful throughout their lives, such as:

- Research
- Writing
- Public speaking
- Problem solving
- Negotiation skills
- Consensus building
- Conflict resolution
- Compromise and cooperation
- Team building
- Leadership skills

Students assume the roles of diplomats and debate current global issues. Through diplomacy and negotiation, Model UN students seek ways that the world community can deal with complex global concerns such as the environment, economic development, refugees, AIDS, conflict resolution, disarmament and human rights.

Before playing out their diplomatic roles, students do research on the particular global problems to be addressed. Model UN "delegates" also look closely at the needs, aspirations, and foreign policy of the country they will "represent" at the event.

At Model UN conferences, the students prepare draft resolutions, plot strategy, negotiate with supporters and adversaries, resolve conflicts, and navigate rules of procedure—all in the interest of mobilizing "international cooperation" to resolve problems that affect almost every country on Earth.