

GREER MIDDLE MODEL UNITED NATIONS PREPARING FOR SUMMIT By Jonah Lee

Greer Middle's Model United Nations club is working hard to prepare for their year-end convention. Model United Nations (MUN) is a national organization for seventh and eighth grade students to experience what the actual United Nations is like and how it works. These participants have meetings on Thursdays and Fridays to get ready for their trip in April to Hendersonville, North Carolina where they will meet with the other schools to debate their countries' international issues. Participants in MUN hold weekly meetings through out the year to prepare for their justifications, proposals, and poster boards.

In model UN, the participants will be in a group made up of two to five people of their choice and will be assigned a country. Model UN participants will have to create their own poster board and make a flag that is from their assigned country to go with it. The board contains facts about your country, your justification for change/action and proposal. Some participants, to make their board look nice, will decorate their board to make it stand out before the judges. Also, the poster board contains of pictures of their country and the research that the members found were interesting to them.

The students involved with Model UN will have to come up with a speech that contains a justification and proposal. This is divided between the group members for presentation. A justification is stating a conflict your country has and how bad it is. The proposal is when the members state how they will fix the problem their country has. The students' proposals state how much money you need to fix the problem or how many troops you'll need.

This year the Model UN members will be going to Kanuga, North Carolina. This is the first time the participants will be going to Kanuga instead of Black Mountain, where they usually go. Here, they will stay in rooms with their group members and go to meetings throughout the day. The groups will be provided with a guide/instructor to lead them through the day.

Once the groups settle in their cabins, they will be split up into small sections to present their justification and proposal in front of a small group from different schools and the group will either be passed or not. If the group is passed, they will later move on to a bigger group to share their justification and proposal again and see if they pass or not. If the group is to be passed the final time, they will share

their speech in front of all the school participants from Model UN on the stage in the main room.

Model UN has been going on at Greer Middle for five to six years. Mrs. Pedrick has always been the main person in charge for it. Usually Greer has a good size group for it but this year, it's the biggest it has ever been. We have twenty-one current groups. Each of the groups consist of three to five people and is either seventh or eighth graders. Some of the countries include: Malaysia, Greece, Mozambique, Swaziland, Bangladesh, Rwanda and Seychelles.