

6 STEPS TO BUILD A DELEGATION...

Ok, let's get started! Remember, these are suggestions and should be tailored to the needs and personalities of your local community.

- 1) *Look to the Board* of your local YMCA for past volunteers, parents of participants, or alumni of Youth & Government - the enthusiasm of those who have been involved is quite contagious. Also seek out those who may be able to help you make contact with your local middle schools (public and private) and school system.
- 2) *Meet with school principals* to share the program's goals and objectives. Ask to be directed to the appropriate member of the staff. Guidance counselors are an excellent alternative if the principal's schedule does not allow for a meeting.
- or -
Meet with a teacher to discuss the program and let him/her suggest the best approach for establishing a new Delegation. Teachers have made excellent advisors over the years.
- 3) Once an advisor has been identified, *presentations to selected classes* or meetings with students after school to introduce the program are effective. Whenever possible have a current participant, recent graduate, or prominent alumnus of the program make the "pitch" - this makes for a more effective sell and starts the trend of youth-run, youth-led early on. It is a good idea if possible to have a student meeting and a parents meeting at the same time. Note: Local ML/C students would be a great tool to plan and facilitate the student meeting.
- 4) *Look for students from a wide range of areas*, multiple school locations, with all abilities, socio-economic backgrounds, interests, and academic levels will benefit from participation.
- 5) *Don't forget the members of your local YMCA!!*
- 6) Once the recruiting process is under way, if possible *identify a 'core group'*. This group should be between 4-6 students/parents who are interested in the creation of the Delegation. It is wise to have a few members of this group be 6th-7th graders – ensuring that not all of your leadership will graduate within your Delegation's first year. These students/parents will be responsible for helping to recruit and organize your MUN delegation.

Keep in mind that *Model United Nations is not for everyone*. While the program can be a life changing experience for many young people– the appeal is not universal. The program requires time, energy, fun-loving spirit, and commitment!! Young people seem especially drawn to and value the program because of:

- The ability to make new friends from all across the state
- The opportunity to travel with their peers
- The role playing of trying to solve "real world" concerns
- The different cultural experiences they are exposed to

****Something else to ponder...* These suggestions are assuming that you will be establishing your MUN Delegation at a local school, however often times a local Y branch will become the home of the MUN Delegation in the area. This allows recruitment from multiple schools and also allows the Y to concentrate its resources - time and talents - on one unified group.