



RMC
Rutgers Model
Congress

Institute for Domestic and International Affairs, Inc.

*Information &
Registration*

16-19 April 2009

Welcome!

Dear Honored Guest,

On behalf of the Institute for International & Domestic Affairs, I would like to invite you to attend Rutgers Model Congress 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Brunswick, New Jersey from 16-19 April 2009.

RMC 2009 is an intensive four-day debate conference for high school students, offering students the opportunity to engage political and social issues through in-depth research and discussion. Students at RMC will simulate a variety of real Congressional committees and address a wide range of topics. Students will work cooperatively to design innovative legislation and defend deeply held beliefs.

The educational focus of RMC 2009 is “Direct Action and Civil Society in a Democracy,” and will challenge participants to investigate the way in which individuals create political and social change starting at the bottom, and will affirm for students that they can be more than passive consumers of political culture. The goal of RMC 2009 is to enhance social power by engendering the capacity for the production of political culture at the grass-roots level.

Grassroots engagement is an essential element of the American political landscape. RMC 2009 will showcase the way in which legislative decisions are informed by grassroots activism and, in turn, the way individuals are impacted by legislative decisions. In addition, RMC 2009 will explore the way in which grassroots politics can be a powerful means to bringing about social change, even when government does not intervene.

RMC 2009 will offer a number of engaging and innovative debate experiences for students. In the New Brunswick City Council committee, students will discuss urban planning and development at the local level. In the Historic 1964 Senate Debate on Civil Rights, students will debate the role of government in creating racial equality—an issue deeply tied to grass-roots engagement. Finally, in the Department of Labor National Advisory Committee of 1915, students will discuss the proper role of government in the regulation of industry and labor.

Registration for RMC 2009 will open 1 December 2008. Please register your school early, as the Conference has a limited number of seats available. For more information about the conference, please review the following pages. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact IDIA at (732) 249-4227 or via email at rmcinfo@idia.net.

Sincerely,

Matt Korostoff

Executive Director, RMC 2009



What is Rutgers Model Congress?

Rutgers Model Congress (RMC) offers a realistic educational simulation of the workings of the United States Congress and other government organizations from the past and present. Students from across the country convene at this four-day conference to discuss pressing domestic issues, and to develop critical solutions. Students have the opportunity to participate in one of twenty different committees, ranging from the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

In each committee, students debate issues on a prepared agenda and represent the interests of their selected state and party. Through the arts of negotiation and compromise, they formulate bills, just as real members of Congress would. Bills that pass by a majority vote in committee are then referred to a full session of either the House of Representatives or the Senate for final passage. Specialized committees, like the National Security Council or the Supreme Court, allow students to follow modified parliamentary procedure to discuss relevant legal issues or questions of national security, and then announce their results to each house of Congress. The Executive Committees of the Republican and Democratic National Committees will give students an insider's view of the partisan political process during what is expected to be a heated congressional election year. Finally, the Constitutional Convention will challenge students to step back in time and re-examine the manner in which the country was first established.

At RMC, preparation is the key to a valuable learning experience. Participants should come equipped with the ability to learn about the numerous domestic issues currently faced by our nation and an understanding of the dynamics of American history that have shaped our country. It is essential, therefore, that participants be sufficiently knowledgeable beforehand, so that they may formulate opinions and legislation that will truly serve the best interests of their constituents. Students will also be taught the rules of procedure that facilitate smooth debate and allow them to employ the tactics of negotiation and compromise used by members of Congress.

The Model Congress program provides students with the opportunity to confront firsthand the many issues facing the United States and the world today, and to propose realistic solutions while helping to affect the course of representative democracy in an educational setting. Our conferences have consistently proven to be both memorable and rewarding for all those involved.

Our Conference

Location

The location of the Hyatt hotel is one of RMC's most attractive features. It is within walking distance of an Amtrak Northeast Corridor train stop, and is only half an hour from Newark International Airport, making for convenient transportation to and from New Brunswick. The conference is located just an hour from New York City and Philadelphia - RMC can easily be integrated into a school field trip to one of these exciting and important historic cities.

In addition to geographical location, New Brunswick is in the midst of reinventing itself as a thriving college town. The small city is full of dining opportunities, ranging from fast food to gourmet cuisine, offering participants selections in virtually all price ranges. The conference hotel is located just five minutes from the campus of historic Rutgers University, offering students to not only experience RMC, but also to explore the nation's eighth oldest institution of higher learning. Rutgers University consistently ranks at the top of department surveys for Political Science, Philosophy, and countless science-based programs.

Hotel Facilities

The Hyatt Regency New Brunswick hotel has undergone a \$20 million renovation that offers significant improvements to the inner workings of the conference. The hotel has new conference facilities, enhanced access to committee rooms, and more comfortable work and relaxation areas.

Staff and Faculty

Unlike many similar programs, IDIA is an independent not-for-profit organization overseen by professional staff and a Board of Directors. These individuals see to it that the issues under discussion at the conference are timely and that the conference itself is well organized, and professionally managed. Coupled with IDIA's fifteen years of experience in hosting experiential education programs is a highly trained and well-prepared conference staff of Rutgers University students. These students represent one of the most prepared and knowledgeable facilitator staffs to be found at any conference. Additionally, the conference is regularly visited by University officials and faculty. Professors often speak on relevant topics in committee sessions on relevant topics and share their expertise with students. In addition, RMC 2009 will also host various elected officials, lobbyists, and community and business leaders, who will appear in committees to shed light on issues from their first-hand experiences and unique perspectives.

RMC has developed several methods to ensure that debate does not stagnate and that students get the most out of their time in committee. Our crisis simulations are always memorable as conference staff members prepare realistic scenarios that challenge students to respond quickly to changing circumstances. We also have student-run Lobbyist Groups that represents a multitude of interests in order to help students to focus more effectively on policy. Additionally, our Press Corps offers a small group of students the opportunity to assume the role of journalists, thus combining their interests in domestic affairs and journalism. These students sit in on and report on the activities of committee sessions in a daily newsletter entitled the RMC Gazette.

The RMC Advantage

At Rutgers Model Congress, we strive to provide the greatest amount of personal attention for each conference participant. House and Senate committees are limited to approximately 40 students, while advanced committees are significantly smaller and offer even more individualized and informal experiences. The Conference Staff will be readily accessible throughout the weekend to address the concerns of any conference participant. Additionally, RMC maximizes the potential of each student's talent for teamwork. We do not permit our students to arrive with any pre-written legislation. Unlike other conferences that incorporate individually written bills into debate, RMC focuses on the importance of cooperation and compromise in the legislative process.

Our committee directors enroll in a 400-level Political Science class at Rutgers University in order to write the thoroughly researched topic briefs that are distributed to schools in preparation for the conference. These briefs provide students with the fundamental policy dilemmas of the topics to be debated, including background information and current status, and are intended to provide a starting point from which students should base their own research. Instead of brief topic summaries, these committee briefs are comprehensively researched and meticulously written. Participating students are expected to conduct this research prior to the conference so as to obtain a more detailed understanding of their topics as they relate to their respective state and party interests.

IDIA Community

<http://community.idia.net>

RMC will not end on Sunday after closing ceremonies! The issues that we discuss over the weekend have been deliberated for years, and unfortunately in some cases, may continue to be under debate for years to come.

All weekend, we will learn about how global issues can become local and individual... the IDIA Community is a chance for all participants -- students, staff, even advisors -- to take an active role in these issues. Connect with fellow delegates and talk about what is happening in your own community to bring about positive social change. Share views on Social Security Reform, the 9/11 Commission, even the diplomatic struggle with Iran in interactive forums and blogs. Record podcasts and video to show the world what individuals are truly capable of accomplishing.

RMC is only one aspect of IDIA's mission to educate, engage, and empower. Now, with the proper technology, RMC can exist beyond the walls and dates of the conference in the form of the brand new IDIA Community website. On this site, available at <http://community.idia.net>, RMC participants can share their experiences of the conference. Whether it be continuing the discussion had in committee or posting personal pictures, videos, and podcasts that bring the RUMUN experience to life, the IDIA Community provides a chance for delegates to sign up and create profiles, network with fellow conference participants, and use the lessons learned this weekend as a foundation for future community projects.

Special Services

Outreach Program

If you are unfamiliar with the workings of a Model Congress or with RMC, our staff is eager to visit your school through our Conference Outreach Program. This program sends RMC staff to your high school to teach about Congress and to help your students prepare for the conference. This is a good opportunity for both novice and experienced delegates as well as advisors to learn about our conference. We will provide explanations of RMC Rules of Procedure, techniques of debate, and research methods. We are very eager to come to your high school and speak about the Model Congress experience! For more information or to schedule an outreach, please call the RMC hotline at (732) 249-4227 or email rmcinfo@idia.net

Training Sessions

The opening day of RMC will include training sessions for both novice and advanced delegates. Chaired by seasoned committee directors, two separate sessions will acquaint novices with the rules of procedure which govern debate, and assist experienced delegates with diplomatic tactics and strategy.

IDIA Portal System

At RMC, we believe that the educational experience of the Model Congress program is critical. To better provide for this educational process, students are encouraged to make full use of the IDIA portal system at www.idia.net. Registered students are each assigned their own username and password to our website, and are granted access to a wealth of online content, including research anthologies from a variety of publications, including *Foreign Affairs*. In addition to the substantive resources students find in their online portal, they will also have access to a variety of discussion boards and scheduled chat sessions designed to better facilitate conference preparation.

Position Papers

Position papers are short, delegate-written research papers discussing their assigned state and party's view on the topics to be discussed in committee. The purpose of these papers is to familiarize the students not only with their country, but also the topics that will be discussed during committee. These papers are to be submitted by 1 April 2009 so that the RMC directorate may provide constructive feedback and return the papers at the first session of the conference. All directors will be available via e-mail and the web forums to discuss position papers in the weeks preceding the conference. Position papers will also be posted on the IDIA Portal System so that delegates can read each other's papers as well. These arenas are opportunities for students to ask any questions that they may have regarding the conference in general, or that they have developed throughout their research.

Conference Resources

RMC 2009 will provide computers available to all delegates throughout the conference so that they may continue their research even after the conference begins. In addition, the Directors' Briefs, the research used to construct the briefs, position papers, and general information regarding Congress and related federal agencies will also be made available.

Committee Information

House Committees generally range in size from 40-50 students. Debate in these committees tends to be more structured, and successful Representatives will leave the conference with a comprehensive understanding of parliamentary procedure as well as their topics.

Senate Committees generally range in size between 30-35 students. This more intimate setting allows for somewhat more informal debate, but successful Senators must master the arts of negotiation and compromise.

Advanced Committees are considerably smaller and involve participants in every aspect of debate. These committees address both current and historic issues, and positions are assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis.

House Committee/Topics

Directors

Armed Services

Nuclear Security
Treatment of Detainees

Joe Hou

Education & Labor

Rising Cost of Higher Education
Private Business Practice as it Relates to Unionized Labor

Jessica Falk

Energy & Commerce

Media Consolidation
Growth of Nuclear Energy

Natasha Bennett

Foreign Affairs

Fair Trade Practices
Internationally Displaced Persons and Refugees in Iraq

Whitley Harris

Homeland Security

Cybersecurity
Border Security

Aakruti Vakharia

Judiciary

Immigration Policy
Scope of Copyright

Breanne Long

Science and Technology

Preparedness for Biological Disasters
Net Neutrality

Kelli Beard

Small Business

The Credit Crunch
Cost of Insurance

Prasannah Ashokkumar

Committee Information

Senate Committee/Topics

Directors

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Homelessness in the United States
Subprime Mortgage Lending

Gwen Prowse

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Conversion to the Metric System
Security in Public Transportation Systems

Sean Hemmings

Environment and Public Works

Climate Change
Disaster Preparedness

Mariana Sentieri

Finance

Medicare
North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

Audi Syarief

Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

Medicaid
School Vouchers

John Lee

Judiciary

Marijuana Law
Re-Evaluation the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA)

Chris Salloum

Subcommittee on Economic Policy

Resolving the Doha Round of the World Trade Organization
Urban Unemployment

Martha Guarnieri

Advanced Committees

Department of Labor National Advisory Committee: 1915**Directors****Rimon Abaskharon**

The Department of Labor National Advisory Committee will discuss government regulation of labor and business in early-20th Century America. Delegates in this committee will reenact the historic debate on the rights of workers set against a contentious backdrop, focusing on the establishment of a minimum wage, child labor, and the right to union membership.

New Brunswick City Council**Charlie Kratovil**

Students in this committee will engage questions of public policy and urban development in the city of New Brunswick. Students will deal with local politics in a realistic manner, entertaining questions from the press, and creating development plans for real New Brunswick locations. This committee will offer students the unique opportunity to immerse in the subject of their debate during the conference.

Senate Debate on Civil Rights: 1964**Michael Pepe**

Delegates in this committee will reenact the historic debate on civil rights in the United States Senate in 1964. Delegates will discuss the proper role of government in ensuring racial equality. Students in this committee will tackle tough issues such as segregation, workplace discrimination, and fair housing.

Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC): 1960**Ruchi Gupta**

Students in this committee will represent a variety of grass-roots organizations working to reconcile their divergent interests to work towards racial equality. Students will draft an agenda of policy reforms and devise tactics aimed at producing social change.

Student Lobbyist Corps**Noah Gronlund-Jacob**

The lobbyist corps at RMC is introduced to various interest groups and their impact on the policy process. Students study lobbying tactics that help to educate legislators about issues that are particularly important to their interest group, and then utilize those tactics in committees. Student In making presentations to the students about their groups, they provide information and opinions for individual legislators and committees to consider when debating issues.

National Press Corps**Kelly Andrade**

The Student Press Corp will show the importance of the media on domestic affairs. Students will learn various journalistic techniques, and they will write, design, and publish their own daily newspaper, the RMC Gazette.

United States Supreme Court**Stephanie Horwitz**

Samson *v.* Georgia (Residency Requirements for Sex Offenders)
Feeney *v.* U.S. Navy (Gender Discrimination in the Armed Forces)

Schedule of Events

Thursday, 16 April 2009

3:00pm	Check-in Begins
4:30pm - 5:00pm	Novice & Advanced Training Sessions
6:30pm - 8:00pm	Opening Ceremony & Keynote Address
8:00pm - 11:30pm	Committee Session I
11:45pm	Delegate Curfew

Friday, 17 April 2009

7:30am - 9:00am	Breakfast
9:00am - 12:00pm	Committee Session II
12:00pm - 1:30pm	Lunch
1:30pm - 3:30pm	Issue Forums
3:30pm - 6:00pm	Committee Session III
6:00pm - 8:00pm	Dinner
8:00pm - 11:30pm	Committee Session IV
11:45pm	Delegate Curfew

Saturday, 18 April 2009

7:30am - 9:00am	Breakfast
9:00am - 12:00pm	Committee Session V
12:00pm - 1:30pm	Lunch
1:30pm - 5:30pm	Committee Session VI
5:30pm - 8:00pm	Dinner
8:00pm - 12:00am	Delegate Social Events
12:15am	Delegate Curfew

Sunday, 19 April 2009

7:30am - 9:00am	Breakfast
9:00am - 12:30pm	Committee Debrief and Work Sessions
1:30pm - 3:00pm	Closing and Awards Ceremony

Dates and Deadlines

1 December 2008

Registration for RMC 2009 opens

7 February 2009

Deadline for initial registration

The following materials will be made available online:

Committee Briefs

Congressional Guide

Payment Forms

Permission Slips

Rooming Lists

1 March 2009

Deadline for Hotel Payment and submission of:

Committee Assignments

Payment Forms

Rooming Lists

A \$100 LATE FEE WILL BE ASSESSED TO ALL STUDENT AND ADVISOR PAYMENTS RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE

1 April 2008

Deadline for Conference Fee Payment
Online Submission of Position Papers

NO REFUNDS OF ANY KIND WILL BE ISSUED AFTER 1 APRIL 2009.

16-19 April 2008

RUTGERS MODEL CONGRESS 2009

Registration Information

With the addition of several new and exciting committees at Rutgers Model Congress, we expect registration to fill quickly. Therefore, in order to receive your first choices for committee, state, and party assignments, please be sure to submit all registration materials as soon as possible, and no later than 7 February 2009. We have devised the following procedure to ensure fairness to all participants. If at any time you have a question about the process, please do not hesitate to call the RMC Hotline at (732) 249 - 4227 or email us at rmcinfo@idia.net.

1. HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEES

In order to simulate realistic congressional conditions as closely as possible, yet allow for students to determine their own roles according to their personal views, we have developed a flexible formula for you to follow when assigning representation.

Guidelines for Senate Committees:

Approximately 30% of each state delegation should be Senators.

From each state, assign 59% of Senators as Democrats and 41% Republicans.

Though the numbers may not be exact, please adhere as closely as possible to the general formula.

No more than one student per delegation may be registered in each Senate Committee.

Guidelines for House Committees:

Approximately 70% of each state delegation should be Representatives.

From each state, again, as closely as possible, assign 41% of all Representatives as Republicans and 59% as Democrats.

No more than two students per delegation may be registered in each House Committee.

Example:

A school has one state with 10 students assigned. Of those 10 students, 3 would be in the Senate and 7 would be in the House of Representatives. Of the 3 Senators, 2 would be Democrats and 1 would be a Republican. The 7 Representatives would be split 2 Republicans and 5 Democrats (again, as close to the 54%-46% split as possible).

2. Advanced Committees

Department of Labor National Advisory Committee: 1915

New Brunswick City Council

Senate Debate on Civil Rights: 1964

Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee: 1960

Press Corps

Student Lobbyist Corps

United States Supreme Court

You may register for as many or as few of these additional committees as you choose, however, each school may register no more than one student in each committee. Registration for Advanced Committees is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

3. Press Corps

Each school may register one student for the Press Corps. Students assigned to the Press Corps will not participate in committee debate. Instead, they will act as journalistic reporters in RMC committees. Prior to the conference, each reporter will be assigned a particular committee, and will research his or her committee's topics so as to be familiar with the issues upon arrival at the conference. After gathering details on their committees' activities during the conference, reporters will write articles that will be published in the daily RMC Gazette and distributed to all conference participants.

Registration Information

Pre-Registration

Registration begins on 1 December 2008. Registration will take place exclusively online on the IDIA website at <http://www.idia.net>. Since the conference quickly reaches capacity, we urge you to register your school early. **The conference sold out in just over 24 hours in 2008.** Delegations for House, Senate and Advanced Committees are assigned on a first come, first served basis. Delegation assignments will be made based upon the postmark date of the pre-registration payment. The pre-registration fee is non-refundable upon assignment of a delegation. Delegates in House Committees may work alone or in pairs, but Senate Committees are limited to individual students. Therefore, total student representation for each delegation in the House and Senate should be 15-23 students. No school may bring more than 76 students total.

Schools must register for at least one delegation in the House and Senate before requesting Advanced Committee seats. Schools may register for as many or as few advanced committees as desired. Schools may register *one* student per advanced committee. Where applicable, schools may represent the same delegation in advanced committees as they do in the House and Senate. This representation is neither required nor guaranteed.

The deadline for initial registration is 7 February 2009. Please note that conference capacity will likely be reached prior to this deadline! If at any time you have a question about any of the following, please call the RMC hotline at (732) 249-4227 or e-mail us at rmcinfo@idia.net.

Final Registration

The deadline for full registration, including committee and rooming lists, Student Hotel Fees, Advisor Conference Fees, and permission slips is 1 March 2009. Student Conference fees are due no later than 1 April 2009. Website forms and paper documents will be available 7 February 2008 to complete the registration process. ***Placement in the Hyatt is not guaranteed, and will be based upon receipt of final payment and completed committee and rooming assignments.*** Full payments not received by their respective deadlines will be assessed a \$100 late fee. No refunds will be given after 1 April 2009.

Registration Information

The preliminary registration fee for RMC 2009 is \$125.00 per delegation. This fee entitles your school to register for one delegation in each of the House and Senate Committees. For no additional fee, schools may register for the Advanced Committees, on a first-come, first-served basis.

*The preliminary registration fee is due by 7 February 2009,
however, the conference may reach its capacity by this deadline.*

*The preliminary registration fee is nonrefundable
upon assignment of a delegation.*

The conference fee for RMC 2009 is \$85.00 per delegate. Students who choose to commute need only remit the \$85.00 conference fee. Accommodations at the conference is an additional \$150.00 per delegate. The total cost per resident delegate for RMC 2009 is \$235.00. Faculty advisor conference fees total \$400.00, including hotel room and conference admission. The hotel fee totals \$112 per night, the federal per diem rate for Middlesex County, New Jersey. Advisor conference fees total \$64, and include admission to conference events, IDIA's Professional Development Program, faculty socials, and refreshments. Up to four faculty members may share one sleeping room at no additional cost.

Sleeping accommodations at the Hyatt Regency are on a first come, first served basis. Once the Hyatt has reached capacity, students will be placed at a nearby auxiliary hotel facility. Hotel reservations are only made upon receipt of full payment and completion of full registration.

Full of Student and Faculty Hotel Fees are due no later than 1 March 2009. All conference fees are due no later than 1 April 2009.

A Late Fee of \$100.00 will be assessed to all late payments.

There will be *no refunds of any kind* after 1 April 2009.



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