September 16, 2019

Greetings,

On October 24, 2019 the Upper Mohawk Valley chapter of the UNA-USA will be sponsoring United Nations Day at Hamilton College and we are inviting your school to attend! The program is created for high school students in our region who are interested in multiculturalism, human rights, and international affairs.

What is UN Day?
Each year since 1948, UN Day has been celebrated around the world on or around October 24, the anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations in 1945. The program is designed to honor the founding of the United Nations and to give recognition to the work of the United Nations’ global programs. Sponsoring a UN Day program is one way that the Upper Mohawk Valley UNA-USA fulfills our non-profit organization's mission:

We are dedicated to educating, inspiring and mobilizing Americans to support the principles and vital work of the United Nations, strengthening the United Nations system, promoting constructive United States leadership in that system and achieving the goals of the United Nations Charter.

What happens on UN Day?
As environmental challenges around the world have become both a growing area of interest and, for many, an area of grave concern the theme of this year’s UN Day was selected to be Our Planet, Our Future. We are excited to announce that we will have three keynote speakers during the day’s program: Dr. Aaron Strong (Hamilton College), Dr. Justin Clark (Hamilton College), and Helen-Audrey Adom of the United Nations Foundation. Throughout the day, our programs will offer information to students that encourage greater understanding of current environmental concerns, justice and ethical issues related to climate change, ways that the United Nations is actively acting and promoting positive climate action, and how our students can become more involved locally, nationally, and globally. Our program will also provide an opportunity for high school students to tour the facilities and programs at Hamilton College as well as meet some of its faculty and their students. Additionally, attendees will have an opportunity to meet and interact with students from other area schools who are also interested in local leadership, global affairs, international politics, cultural studies, the United Nations, and/or Model United Nations.

A schedule of day’s events is available on the UN Day page of our website at www.umvuna.org/un-day.

Who is our intended audience?
We encourage all interested students to attend. For example, students may be encouraged to attend by teachers, club advisers, guidance counselors, and/or administrators. We specifically encourage schools to promote our program directly with their foreign exchange students,
however, we believe that all students would benefit from attending our program. *Note: This event is not associated with our Model United Nations (Model UN) program and schools need not have and Model UN a program in order for their students to attend.*

As the space we have reserved for the event has a limited seating capacity of 125 people, we are requesting that schools restrict the number of students that they initially register for the event to no more than thirty (30) interested students. If we find that seats are leftover following the registration deadline of October 11, we will contact schools after that date to inform them that they may bring additional students to the event.

**How much does it cost?**
The Upper Mohawk Valley UNA-USA is also happy to announce that we plan to sponsor a large portion of the cost of lunch for students and chaperones who attend our program. We ask that students and advisers attending contribute just $5 each toward the cost of food and our chapter will pick up the remainder of the cost for the day.

Cash, check, and money order are all accepted as forms of payment. Checks and money orders can be made out to “UMV-UNA-USA”. Please consolidate your school’s payment into a single check or money order if making payment in that manner.

**How can your school register to attend?**
As soon as possible, please have the primary faculty member responsible for organizing the trip contact Greg Smith at 315.790.0619 or gsmith@oneida-boces.org to let him know of your intentions to attend our program. At that time, please provide him an approximate number of students that you expect to attend.

When you have a finalized list of students, please fill out the online registration form on the [UN Day page of our website](https://www.umvuna.org/un-day) to provide us with your exact attendance. The online registration must be completed by October 11.

We hope that your school will be supportive of this program and encourage students to join us on this special day. Since we began coordinating annual UN Day programs in our region, we have had a great deal of positive feedback from students, teachers, advisers, and administrators who have attended.

We hope to hear from you soon and look forward to seeing you on October 24!

Greg M. Smith
Vice President
Upper Mohawk Valley Chapter
United Nations Association