

Parade of Nations

Kentucky United Nations Assembly

Purpose of the Parade of Nations

On the first evening of the Kentucky United Nations Assembly, participants gather for a colorful and powerful opening ceremony (*think the Olympics!*), wherein they will see a parade of flags and Country Signs from each UN Member Nation represented at their assembly. The Parade of Nations allows students to display their creative handiwork, while also acting as a visual representation of the “world around them” at KUNA.

Two students from each country will take center stage: one with the flag in hand, and another with a student-designed and created Country Sign. *For more information on Country Signs, see below.*

Each part of the Parade of Nations is intentionally designed to maximize the opportunity for students to learn from and teach one another. As such, to bolster cultural understanding and critical thinking, the Kentucky YMCA Youth Association requests that all country members research, are educated about, and are able to answer peer questions regarding the following:

- Flag
*What is the historical and symbolic significance of this flag?
What does this flag mean to the citizens of the country?*
- Country Sign
What is this intended to represent, and why was it selected to represent your country?
- Cultural Attire
[Insert link to Cultural Attire Guidelines PDF/Website]

Country Flag Guidelines

During the Parade of Nations, one student will carry the country’s flag.

Flags may be purchased or made by hand. The flag may be held by hand(s) or by flagpole, dependent upon preference. The KYMCA does not provide flag poles.

Schools are encouraged to borrow from schools that represented their country previously.

Country Sign Guidelines

The Country Sign is a creatively designed sign displaying the country’s name, and is carried in the opening Parade of Nations.

All Country Signs must aim to educate by bringing to light relevant cultural themes, resources, and/or current or historical issues of the nation.

Country Signs must be carried by only one student during the Parade of Nations to be eligible for awards.

Displaying Country Signs & Flags

As previously indicated, delegations should bring their country's flag (or flags, for those representing multiple countries) to be carried along with the respective Country Sign in the Parade of Nations during Opening Ceremonies.

Each school should select only two (2) students per country to participate in the Parade of Nations – one student to carry the Country Flag, and one student to carry the Country Sign.

About 10 minutes before Opening Session begins, the two students selected to walk in the Parade of Nations will head outside of the ballroom (in the hallway) to begin lining up alphabetically with their flag and/or sign. A Y-Staff member will be there to help them line up and instruct them to walk on stage for 3-5 seconds.

Following the Parade of Nations, all Signs and Flags should be incorporated into your school's World Expo Display.