

2024 Kentucky United Nations Assembly (KUNA)

Program Changes

We strive to create the best program experience for all participants. Based on feedback from KUNA participants and staff, the KYYMCA is excited to announce the changes for the 2024 KUNA season!

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1. Agenda Changes

- a. Advisor Hospitality Room – we will offer a space for advisors to go to grab coffee, snacks, and/or have a break away from programming.

2. Candidates & Voting

- a. Primary Voting – voting in the primary election will be done by Countries, not schools. This process more closely mimics the process that the United Nations uses to vote for Secretary General where each General Assembly member is allowed one vote. In addition, this process allows for a more representative count of the students votes at conferences and to have their voices heard.
- b. Middle School Candidate Grade Requirement – Starting in the 2023/24 KYA & KUNA season, Middle School candidates must be in 7th grade to run and will serve at the conference during their 8th grade year. We will have one transition year where 7th AND 8th graders will be eligible to run for Presiding Officer (there will be two elections, one for 8th grade candidates and one for 7th grade candidates). For the full plan and more information, please visit kyyymca.org/programs/kuna/leadership/candidates.

3. Conference Life Committee (CLC)

- a. Bringing CLC to Middle School – we will begin having CLC at the Middle School level. This allows us to get valuable input from our Middle School cohorts! Advisors will be able to appoint a student on registration to be a CLC representative and meet with Y-Staff at the end of Day 2 to give feedback on the conferences.

4. COVID Safety

- a. General Safety Policies – each year, the KYYMCA will review the current status of COVID-19 and make program adjustments as needed. This includes masking at conference and any necessary information we may need from participants prior to the conference (negative tests, proof of vaccination, screening questions, etc.). These updates will be made prior to registration opening.

5. Cultural Pieces

- a. International Stage Application Process – participants will still need to complete an application for International Stage. But, in addition to the online application, schools will need to email Vontella Thomas (vontella@kyyymca.org) a small snippet of their performance, including any audio being used. More information on our website, <https://www.kyyymca.org/programs/kuna/representing-countries/international-stage/>.

6. Debate

- a. Doorkeepers – we will have Doorkeepers return this 2023/24 KYA & KUNA season. Advisors will be able to appoint one Doorkeeper on registration. They must attend the Chair & Doorkeeper meeting on the first day of the conference to serve.

- b. Committee Chair Requirements – in order to be a Chairperson, students will need to be in 8th grade (MS conferences) or 12th grade (HS conferences) and have been to at least one KYA or KUNA conference.
- c. Resolution Tracking – participants will have access to the Resolution Tracking Sheet on their conference assembly page. This spreadsheet tracks where the resolutions are during debate and notes if they have been passed or defeated. It also lists the meeting times with the Secretary General.

7. Dress Code

- a. First Day Dress Code – business casual attire will no longer be required on the first day of KUNA, students can be in casual wear. Reminder that NO students should be in cultural attire. The only exception is for students performing in International Stage, but that attire must not be present until 20 minutes before the performance.
 - i. Students can wear country t-shirts, as long as they remain respectful.
 - ii. Day 2 & Day 3 dress codes will remain the same. Day 2 is business casual or business professional until dinner time, then dress code is casual. Day 3 dress code is casual.

8. Pizza

- a. Pizza at Conferences – our goal is to have pizzas return to conferences. A final decision will be made prior to registration opening.

9. Presiding & Supporting Officers

- a. Chief of Staff Role – we are amplifying the role of Chief of Staff (COS) to be more involved in the Presiding Officer team and in the months leading up to conferences. The COS will work to be a team manager and assist Y-Staff with holding Presiding Officer teams accountable. They will also be expected to attend the PO Retreats. This position will be application-based starting in the 2023/24 season.

10. Ramadan

- a. Accommodations for Participants – taking into consideration that Ramadan will coincide with KUNA for the next few years, the KYYMCA wants to ensure that participants at KUNA can comfortably observe Ramadan. All conferences will have a space for participants to pray and food will be made available early in the morning (before sunrise) and later in the evening (after sunset).

11. Registration

- a. Advisor Minimums – to ensure we are cultivating a safe environment for our students, the KYYMCA will implement a minimum of adults needed for registered students at the conference. For every 25 students, we will require there to be 1 adult (1:25). This does not impact the maximum adult: student ratio of 1:10 we currently have implemented.
- b. Delegate Info Forms – to amplify the security of all our forms, including the Delegate Info Form that is required for registering for all KYYMCA programs, we will be requiring

additional information to access those forms. We are finalizing this process and will have more information at the beginning of the 2023/24 school year.

12. Resources for Neurodivergent Students

- a. To ensure all of our students receive the support they need, the KYYMCA will have resources available to students with neurodivergent needs. This includes a “safe room” for any student feeling overwhelmed and/or overstimulated. We will also have sound cancelling headphones, fidget toys, coloring books, and more available at the Y-Desk for students to use.

13. Special Programs

- a. NGO Program at Middle School – to further the opportunities available to students at KUNA conferences, we will be bringing the NGO Program to the Middle School level! The program will be adapted for Middle School conferences. We will have a finalized plan introduced this summer prior to registration opening in the fall. If you have any questions in the meantime, please reach out to the program lead, Vontella Thomas at vontella@kyyymca.org.