

JWAC Self-Organized Event Ideas

International Dinner:

Search for international restaurants in your community on Yelp or Urbanspoon. Once you have chosen a restaurant, look at the menu and figure out how much it would cost to eat dinner there (family-style restaurants are going to be less expensive and it will be easier to share). You have the option of having each student pay for their meal or paying for everything as a group. It may be cheaper to pay as a group but could be slightly more complicated because you will need to collect money before the dinner. Once you have chosen the restaurant, find out how many students are interested in attending and set a date. Once you have set the date, send out an email or some sort of communication to your JWAC members with some way to RSVP (Evite, email, Google Form, etc.). Once you have a head count, make sure to make reservations to ensure that the restaurant can accommodate your group.

International Movie Night:

Choose a foreign film to watch after school one day (Some suggestions are Nollywood, Bollywood, Chinese, and European movies). Netflix, iTunes, Amazon Prime, and Hulu each have a wide selection of international movies and television shows. Just make sure to choose the international filter under the genre drop-down. Have everyone bring a snack and/or drink to share and enjoy the movie!

If you want do not want to host the event at school, movie theaters occasionally play international movies.

- Angelika Film Center occasionally screens anime and European movies.
- Cinemark and AMC occasionally screen popular Bollywood movies throughout the year.
- FunAsia Theater in Richardson is a movie theater that only screens Bollywood movies.

U.S. Diplomacy Center Simulation:

Go to the U.S. Diplomacy Center website, read about their educational simulation resources, and watch the instructional videos about the simulation process. Choose a simulation topic as a group and print out the materials necessary to conduct the simulation. Simulation topics include solving a freshwater crisis, simulating the peace building process in Darfur, and solving a migration crisis, among others. Each of the simulation topics focus on certain foreign policy issues that the United States and other countries face. It is important to make sure there is at

least one, if not two facilitators (could be a sponsor or officer). Facilitators will be in charge of guiding the scenario for the group and will maintain order during the simulation. Once you have your facilitator(s), divide everyone up into groups based on the number of stakeholders in the simulation. Follow the instructions of the simulation and allow the students to have fun and resolve the conflict!

International Culture Night:

Host an International Culture Night at your school. Have students sign up to represent a country from a list of less commonly known countries (Think more countries like Ukraine, Angola, the Maldives, etc.) Ask students to research facts about their country including dress, cuisine, economy, culture, language, etc. and create a poster or presentation board. On the night of the event have students walk around and view other posters like a gallery.

Another suggestion is to focus on one specific country and cook a full meal featuring dishes from that country. While cooking the meal, read or watch some videos about the history of the country or complete a basic online language course. Make sure that you are willing to step out of your comfort zone! Some of the best food may not seem appealing at first, but once you try it, you may love it!

Model UN Simulation:

Choose a Model UN simulation Once you have chosen a simulation with your group, watch any video guides and read any topic guides as a group. After you read the guide and watch the video, assign each student or group to a country. Distribute any country guides, country research, and primary sources for students to read before the simulation. Before the simulation, explain to participants how to write resolutions and explain the MUN process (Parliamentary Process). Once students understand both processes, set a date to conduct the simulation. Make sure you give ample time and possibly spread out the simulation over several days (3 hours is a safe amount of time, but it is possible the simulation will require more time).

Hold a Fundraiser:

Hold a fundraiser on your school's campus to benefit a certain organization or cause. Some suggestions of organizations are Save the Children, World Without Hate, Refuge Services of Texas, UNICEF, etc. Students can host a bake sale, raffle, book swap, or other similar event to raise money for the organization of their choice. When planning a fundraiser, make sure you and your sponsor understand your school's guidelines for collecting money and holding fundraisers. Once you understand these rules, plan a date with your sponsor. It is best to plan and give your club several weeks to prepare (4-6 weeks). During the time leading up to the event, promote the fundraiser. Create posters, social media posts, videos, and anything else you can think of to raise awareness for the fundraiser. If your school has some form of daily or weekly announcements and/or social media, request your fundraiser be added to the upcoming events. Make sure you notify Director of Education, Jennifer Bowden (jbowden@dfwworld.org)

about the fundraiser. The World Affairs Council of DFW loves to hear about the initiatives of JWAC chapters!

Present to a Middle School:

Share your JWAC experiences and information about your chapter with your feeder schools. Work with your sponsor and a contact (teacher, principal, etc.) at the middle school to schedule the presentation. The best way to contact the middle school will be through email so you can refer back to any information or logistics later. When working with the middle school contact, request that the middle school students come up with a set of questions for the JWAC students visiting. This will make it more interactive for the middle school students and will help better answer their questions.

JWAC students can also submit a short narrative about their JWAC experiences and involvement in the program. Compile these testimonies and general information about Global Young Leaders in a presentation to show the middle school students. If you would like your presentation to be a little more creative, work as a JWAC to produce a video to show the students with pictures from all the JWAC events you attended over the course of the year.

You can also adapt your presentation to focus on a certain world issue that the middle school students may be studying in a class like Social Studies. You can also research and create a short presentation about the four pillars of Global Competence: Diplomatic Leadership, Civic Leadership, Problem Solving, and Cultural Intelligence.

Learn about a Religion:

First, research a religion online that you and your JWAC is interested about. What stands out to you about the religion? What do you want to learn? Many less commonly known religions like Baha'ism and Sikhism have their own websites with information about their religion. Other resources are websites of local mosques, religious schools, organizations, temples, synagogues, etc.

Once you have a religion chosen, conduct a Google search of local temples, mosques, synagogues, churches, or organizations affiliated with the religion. Work with your sponsor to reach out to a religious group to set up a possible tour of their facility and a presentation.

When contacting someone at a religious center, make sure that you understand the rules of the center and the days of worship. Make sure to leave ample time for planning (4-6 weeks) and have a head count of students attending to forward to the religious center.

Learn about Culture through the Arts:

Visit a local art gallery/museum or take a local dance class to learn about a different culture. Search free international dance classes hosted by local community centers or at local festivals. One suggestion is to check your local city recreation center or parks, such as Klyde Warren

Park. Rec centers often offer low cost or free dance classes to residents. If you cannot find a free dance class, try contacting a local dance studio. They may be willing to offer a short seminar on the origins of their certain form of dance and a short lesson.

Art museums often host reduced cost days and sometimes have exhibits featuring art from a certain region of the world. Some suggestions of museums to look into are the Dallas Museum of Art, Crow Collection of Asian Art, Nasher Sculpture Center, and Kimbell Art Museum, etc. Museums often offer some sort of literature or guided tour to accompany exhibits, so be sure to ask lots of questions! Other places like art galleries like Mercado 369 and community centers may occasionally offer free or low-cost art classes. Just make sure to contact them about your group size and register beforehand!

Watch and Learn About an International Sport:

Go watch a taekwondo competition, rugby game, jiu-jitsu match, karate competition, jai alai game, or any other international sport you can think of. Contact a local club or team by conducting a Google search. Martial arts studios may also have physical locations where your group can go and observe a practice. When contacting a club or team, request a member give a short presentation on the sport and its cultural background. Make sure to plan far enough in advance to give your sponsor and the sports club/team fair notice of the presentation and observation.

If you would rather do something more interactive, contact your local rec center. They may offer classes on international sports like cricket, karate, etc. It may be possible to have your whole JWAC go to the rec center and have a private presentation and basic lesson about the sport.

****IMPORTANT: Self-organized JWAC activities must be approved by JWAC teacher sponsors to ensure that school permission has been granted and the proper paperwork has been filled out. An adult chaperone should be present for all off-campus activities and help coordinate transportation. Organizers should also get parent permission for activities that take place off-campus.***