

Adolescent Event!



International Montessori Adolescent Summit

Tapping the Well of Water Innovation: Seeking Sustainable Solutions to Water Access, Quality, and Conflict

April 22-25, 2015, Washington DC

An Invitation to the Montessori Adolescent



New Canaan Montessori
School, Corner of Hope, AMI,
New Canaan Community,
Nakuru, Kenya

Montessori Institute for the Science of Peace

c/o Aidan Montessori School • 2700 27th St. NW • Washington DC

www.constructingpeace.org • info@constructingpeace.org

What Is the Montessori Adolescent Summit?

An Invitation to the Montessori Adolescent

The first International Montessori Adolescent Summit will bring together youth from Montessori Schools around the world to tackle one current global issue each year and build on the universal Montessori skills necessary to act locally and globally. At each summit, adolescents will apply these skills, acquired in their Montessori experience, to global realities:

- an understanding of complexity applied to a particular issue
- an ability to identify the significant components of a problem
- a capacity to focus and concentrate on an issue
- an ability to ask essential questions about a problem
- a habit of conscious conversation in a problem solving capacity
- a desire to engage in dialogue that builds trust and innovation, and
- a hope to construct bridges across local, national, and international sectors.¹

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Complex global issues are a compelling and developmentally appropriate subject for Montessori middle and high school youth. The Montessori Model United Nations conference offers a structure and format for global perspective taking from upper elementary to early adolescence, using the United Nation venue for their productivity. This International Montessori Adolescent Summit for ages 14-18 will take the adolescent into real world institutions using Washington DC for its place-based learning realities.

This Montessori Adolescent Summit is organized by the Montessori Institute for the Science of Peace (MISP) and is made possible by the support of the North American Montessori Teachers' Association (NAMTA).



¹Fisher & Ury. (1991). *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In*. Houghton Mifflin Company, New York.

Playing Their Role in Society

The Adolescent's Need for Social Action

“The essence of this social life is work...in this sensitive period he is prepared to take up his part in the social life of humanity.”

—Maria Montessori

Adolescents are uniquely suited to address the critical issues of the world. Only by directly experiencing the complexities of society and working in a global community will adolescents develop an authentic understanding of the human condition as their social and moral selves evolve.

To encourage hope and positive action for the future, the adolescent needs to feel part of the solution by their efforts to solve one problem at a time. When a group of Montessori students from different parts of the world collaborate they become advocates for what is true human progress. This is their developmental task. Each year the international Montessori Summit will choose one topic; for 2015 the topic is Tapping the Well of Water Innovation: Seeking Sustainable Solutions to Water Access, Quality, and Conflict. Through preparation in advance of the summit and through collaboration at the summit, students will develop a comprehensive understanding of a global crisis and pose sustainable solutions. The socially-minded and morally-conscious community of youth will support critical reflection, empowered optimism, and social action.

*“Social life is not sitting in a room together or living in a city. It does not regard social relations. **The essence is that something is produced that is useful to the whole of society.**”*

—Maria Montessori



Montessori High School at University Circle, Cleveland, Ohio, X-Term, Oxaca, Mexico, water cistern.

2015 Adolescent Summit: Water Systems

In 2010, the United Nations General Assembly recognized the right of every human being to have access to sufficient water for personal and domestic uses, which must be **safe, acceptable and affordable, and physically accessible**.

According to the U.N. Millennium Development Goals 2012 report, 11 per cent of the global population—783 million people—remains without access to an improved source of drinking water and, at the current pace, 605 million people will still lack coverage in 2015.

During this Adolescent Summit, youth from around the world will collaborate with experts to explore solutions to increase water access, quality and cooperation and develop the skills necessary to create and implement action plans to address the failures in water usage, in their local communities and globally.

--> A preparatory packet containing detailed descriptions of summit preparation, registration, and itinerary will be emailed to all who register.

Preparation:

Each pair of students will:

- Choose a subgroup of the water system on which to focus (access, quality, conflict)
- Research, analyze, and prepare a short paper and story to share at the Summit
- Choose one local and one international institution (organization, business, program, etc.) working in the water system to interview/research and analyze to serve as case studies.

Optional: Submit a photograph/photographs which captures water use or a water issue for our photo exhibit

During the Summit:

- Break into sub-groups to present research and conduct interviews with experts working across the water system in Washington, D.C.
- Subgroups develop and present guidelines for improving the water system and create concrete action plans for local implementation
- Explore the water photo exhibition and share water stories

Follow Up:

- Post updates (written, video or photos) of local action implementation on the PeaceX blog
- Contribute feedback to improve the Summit and determine following year's theme
--> Guidelines developed at Summit will be published. Details will be available on the PeaceX blog (<http://constructingpeace.blogspot.com>) and MISP facebook page (www.facebook.com/constructingpeace) after the event.

Note for Adult Chaperons:

- Each group of adolescents should be accompanied by an adult facilitator who is willing to oversee student preparation, to supervise students during the summit, and to assist in student implementation of their action plan upon returning to their home communities.



Summit Program

Tapping the Well of Water Innovation: Seeking Sustainable Solutions to Water Access, Quality, and Conflict

Wednesday, April 22nd

2-5 pm **Registration**
Once Circle Washington Hotel

7-7:30 pm **Opening Gathering**

7:45-8:30 pm Keynote Speaker
Tolessa Deksissa, Director of the Water Resources Research Institute, University of the District of Columbia



Tolessa Deksissa

Ways to Solve Water Crises Now and in the Future

Tolessa Deksissa will focus on the big picture of the global water crises, including access, quality and quantity, the relation of quality and quantity, and balancing water supply demand with ecological needs. It will foster creative ideas to address water related problems of today as well as in the future.

Thursday, April 23rd

9 am-Noon Morning Session
Water Conflict, Peace, and Youth as Agents of Change, the Global Peacebuilding Center
Voices from the Ground- Discussion about the dynamics, challenges, and opportunities/stories of engagement of living in regions with water conflict, the United States Institute for Peace

10-10:30am **Break**

Noon-2pm **Lunch**
One Circle
Washington Hotel

2-5pm Afternoon Session
Present research in sub-theme groups, develop interview questions

Evening: **Free time to experience Washington DC**



East facade of the U.S. capitol at sunset, Michael Kleinberg, www.washington.org

continued on the following page

Summit Program, continued

Friday, April 24th

9am-noon

In small groups, conduct interviews with non-profit organizations, government officials, and researchers working in the Water System

- Non-Profits:
Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting
<http://pulitzercenter.org>
Learn-Serve International
<http://learn-serve.org>
Amman Imman
<https://www.ammanimman.org>
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
<https://allianceforthebay.org>
- Academic Institutions:
Water Institute, Johns Hopkins University
<http://water.jhu.edu>
George Washington University
<http://geography.columbian.gwu.edu/melissa-keeley>
<http://www.seas.gwu.edu/jonathan-p-deason>
<http://publichealth.gwu.edu/faculty/?employeeID=818>
- Governmental/U.N.:
Global Peacebuilding Center, United States Institute for Peace
<http://www.buildingpeace.org>
D.C. Department of the Environment
<http://green.dc.gov>
Inter-American Development Bank
<http://www.iadb.org>

Noon-2 pm

Lunch, One Circle Washington Hotel

2-3:45 pm

Afternoon Session

Small groups: Develop guidelines for improving the water system

3:45-5 pm

Consolidate, Finalize Guidelines, and Draw up Action Plans

Evening:

Free time to experience Washington DC

Saturday April 25th

9 am-noon

Closing Ceremony

--> Important Note: This is a tentative agenda.

Registration Information

2015 Adolescent Summit

Register before Friday, March 13, 2015:

- Mail, fax, or e-mail the registration form at the end of this document to:
Montessori Institute for the Science of Peace
c/o NAMTA
13693 Butternut Road
Burton, OH 44021
Fax: 440-834-4016
E-mail: staff@montessori-namta.org

Registration Fee:

- \$275 per person (\$290 after February 27)
Registration does not include transportation costs or accommodations.

Summit registration cost includes:

- All conference proceedings
- Breaks and Lunches on April 23rd and 24th
- Transportation around Washington DC for Conference Events

Accommodations:

- MISP has a block of rooms reserved at One Circle Washington Hotel.
ONE CIRCLE WASHINGTON HOTEL
1 Washington Circle, NW, Washington DC 20037
<http://www.thecirclehotel.com/>
(202) 872-1680
- Room rates (do not include taxes):
 - Double: \$199 per night (two double beds) x 3 nights = total \$597 (sleeps up to 4)
 - All Individuals wishing to be placed in a double with other Summit participants or groups wishing to add another to their double, please contact Elizabeth Henke: elizabeth@constructingpeace.org.
- Please mention the MISP conference when reserving your three nights (April 23-25) at the One Circle Washington Hotel. Please note that rooms cannot be guaranteed after March 13, 2015.



Montessori Institute for the Science of Peace

Mission: To provide a comprehensive, developmental whole-school design for empowering the adolescent personality, their teachers, and schools for constructing a vision of peace and sustainability, both locally and globally.

www.constructingpeace.org

Adolescent Summit Registration Form

Tapping the Well of Water Innovation: Seeking Sustainable Solutions to Water Access, Quality, and Conflict

Please complete one form for each student and adult attending from your school.

Registration fee: \$275 per person (\$290 after February 27)

Vegetarian: Yes No

Name: _____

adult student

Students choose one sub-topic for research. (MISP recommends a minimum of two students per topic.) Water: access quality conflict

Name of Your School: _____

Phone : _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Payment options:

Check or money order enclosed. *Must be payable in U.S. currency & drawn on a U.S. bank.*

Choose one: Visa; MasterCard; AmEx; Discover *Please complete the information below.*

Card Number: _____

Name on Card: _____

Expiration Date: _____ 3- or 4-digit Authorization Code: _____
(month/year) (found on front of AmEx, back of other cards)

Address: _____
Street Address where credit card bills are sent.

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Return form to: Montessori Institute for the Science of Peace, c/o NAMTA

Mail: NAMTA, 13693 Butternut Road, Burton, OH 44021

Scan/E-mail: staff@montessori-namta.org • Fax: 440-834-4016

Lodging available at One Circle Washington Hotel

www.thecirclehotel.com or 202-872-1680