



CLOSE UP PROPOSAL

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM



SCHOOL: ROCK RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

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WHY PARTNER WITH THE CLOSE UP FOUNDATION?



NON-PROFIT: Close Up is a non-profit, non-partisan education organization with over 50 years of experience and nearly one million alumni. We inform, inspire, and empower young people to become active and engaged citizens and develop the skills and attitudes necessary to become leaders in their schools and communities.

NOT JUST A SIGHT-SEEING TOUR: Using Washington, DC, as a living classroom, students actively engage with the city and one another through interactive lessons, deliberations, and simulations through our methodology and curriculum.

DEDICATED PROGRAM INSTRUCTORS: Our highly trained instructors deliver top-notch experiential curriculum in a small group setting. Students will meet with peers from across the country to expand and complement their world view. They will engage with each other and their instructor in discussions that help build connections between social studies content and the world outside the classroom. Throughout the process, instructors will ensure students are fully engaged, having fun, and learning new civic skills!

CONNECTING HISTORY TO TODAY: At every monument, memorial, and museum, instructors help students connect what they are seeing to current issues by providing history and context. For example:

- *American Political Values* - At the Jefferson, FDR, and MLK Memorials students examine where the American political values of liberty, equality, and justice come from; the connection between them; and what they mean today.

INTENTIONAL SCAFFOLDING AND SEQUENCING: Schedules are designed so that each site visit builds upon previous activities and discussions. For example:

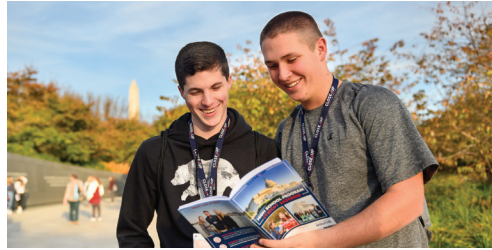
- *Congressional Simulation* - Before visiting Capitol Hill, students participate in our signature Mock Congress Activity. By taking on the role of Members of Congress, students experience the legislative process firsthand and are prepared to ask substantive questions during their Capitol Hill meetings.

MEETINGS WITH CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION: Students and teachers spend a day on Capitol Hill where they will meet with their elected officials or their staff and have the opportunity to ask questions about important current issues. Schools can also use independent time between meetings to visit other iconic sites on Capitol Hill, like the Supreme Court and Library of Congress.

BEHIND THE SCENES ACCESS: Students hear from and ask questions of public policy officials and other key players at places such as foreign embassies, the State Department, and policy advocacy organizations. Close Up partners with over 100 organizations in Washington, DC, to give them a dynamic perspective of the nation's capital beyond the monuments.

ONE-OF-A-KIND TEACHER PROGRAM: We offer teachers the opportunity to network with other educators from around the country, return home with new tools to enhance teaching practices, and earn CEU and graduate credits all while exploring famous sites in and around DC.

SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT



STAFFING MODEL: Upon arrival in Washington, DC, schools will be welcomed by our staff, which includes a full-time Program Leader, Program Instructors, a Program Assistant, and night monitors. All staff members pass federal and state background checks before hiring and must complete CPR/AED/First Aid training before working with students.

- **Program Leader & Instructors** - One full-time program leader is dedicated to your program. There are two program instructors per bus and each lead a workshop group of 20-25 students. Every leader and instructor is college-educated and has received over 120 hours of training, as well as ongoing professional development to stay up-to-date with experiential teaching methodologies and techniques.
- **Program Assistant** - A dedicated staff member available to assist when a student is sick or needs to visit a doctor due to illness. This assistant is also available to provide supervision at the hotel if a student is not able to participate on program.
- **Night Monitors** - Staff members are stationed in each hallway overnight to check students into their rooms and address any needs that may arise overnight.

MEDICAL CARE: Close Up partners with several leading healthcare providers, including Georgetown University Children's Medical Center (GUCMC), to ensure that students have access to quality health care should they get sick while on program. Close Up, along with the trip coordinator, will work together to ensure that students get timely access to quality health care if the need arises.

EMERGENCY HOTLINE: This 24/7 hotline number is printed on student nametags and is made available to parents and administrators before program begins.

LIABILITY INSURANCE: Close Up has a liability policy in place to protect all schools. School-specific liability certificates are available upon request.

TRAVEL SUPPORT: We provide a toll-free number staffed by our transportation team during travel days. We monitor arriving and departing flights throughout the day and night. If any problems arise (flight cancellations, weather delays, schedule changes, etc.), schools can call and we will work with you to find a solution.

“Close Up taught me how to get involved and why it is important to use my voice and to help make change everyday.”

- SAMANTHA, STUDENT, AZ

WHAT DOES CLOSE UP OFFER OUTSIDE OF DC?



CURRENT ISSUES RESOURCES: Our classroom resource center provides comprehensive, bipartisan materials on current issues and policies, and helps students prepare to engage with diverse perspectives. Subscriptions include:

- **School-Wide Use** - Access to structured discussions, debates, and deliberations focusing on a central question for all classrooms.
- **Frequent Updates** - Issues resources are updated regularly throughout the school year to reflect current policy.
- **Background Information** - Each topic includes primary sources from decision-makers and experts across the political spectrum to help students understand issue context and history.
- **Lesson Plans** - Various activities and structured guides are provided to help facilitate meaningful classroom conversations.

CURRICULUM & RESOURCE DESIGN: Using a methodology based on issue-centered education, cooperative learning, multipartisanship, and democratic classroom leadership, our customized curriculum and resource plans for schools and districts, are designed to inspire and boost student engagement both at school and out in the community.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Our virtual and in-person PD sessions provide interactive, innovative training to help teachers successfully navigate challenging conversations about social and political issues at school. Each session can be fully customized to meet curricular, grade-level, and school or district needs. All sessions include ready-to-use lesson plans, activities, tools, strategies, and digital resources that promote critical thinking and thoughtful discourse among students. Examples include:

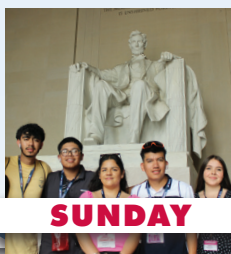
- **Navigating Challenging Conversations at School** - Helps teachers to build a learning community of diverse students and learn how to respond effectively when discourse breaks down.
- **Facilitating Productive Civil Discourse in Your Classroom** - Provides teachers with the resources and tools to help students have meaningful conversations about controversial issues.
- **Media Literacy and Politically Charged Language** - Equips teachers with the skills and knowledge to help students critically evaluate media messages in an era of polarization.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS: Close Up's customizable virtual programs are opportunities for schools and districts to provide both supplemental academic enrichment and tutoring to their students. Virtual programs are designed to be flexible, making them easily adaptable to any schedule or learning goal. All programs are facilitated by Close Up instructors, who are experts in leading student discussions, building inclusive communities, and connecting students to the world around them.

“ I am excited to debate contemporary issues and connect them to U.S. history. This was exceptional PD, the best of the year! ”

– SARAH, TEACHER, FL

CLOSE UP HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM - WASHINGTON, DC



SUNDAY

Arrive in Washington

Meet your Close Up concierge and **explore the city** with your school

Welcome Dinner

Program Orientation & Community Building

Meet Close Up staff and **review your purpose and goals** for the week

Opening Workshop*

What are the **biggest issues we face** in our democracy today?

Facts & Fun:

Ultimate Trivia Night

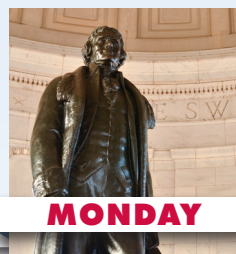
Show off your **knowledge of Washington** with teammates from across the country

Sample schedule subject to change.

**Workshops are small learning communities made up of students from various states. Each workshop community is led by the same Close Up program instructor for the duration of the trip.*

*** Study visits led by highly trained instructors provide unique opportunities to learn using historic sites and institutions as living classrooms.*

CST-1002082-40: Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.



MONDAY

American Political Values Study Visit**

How do the values of **liberty, equality, and justice** impact trends and ideas in the U.S. political system today?

Jefferson Memorial—

What is the significance of liberty in the Founding Documents?

FDR Memorial—How was equality defined by FDR and his New Deal?

MLK Memorial—How did MLK influence the value of justice in the Civil Rights Movement?

Lunch at Reagan Building and International Trade Center

Smithsonian Institution Exploration

Visit one of the **world-renowned museums** to learn about history and culture

American Political Values Workshop

Examine the connections between **liberty, equality, and justice**

Dinner at Hotel

Current Issues Discussion

Debate hot topics with new friends from across the nation



TUESDAY

War Memorials Study Visit

What do the **WWII, Vietnam Veterans, and Korean War Veterans Memorials** say about **those who have served and sacrificed**?

Lincoln Memorial

How does the **imagery of this memorial** portray Lincoln's legacy?

Capitol Hill Group Photo

Lunch at L'Enfant Plaza

National Politics Seminar Gain **inside access and discuss current issues** with a Washington lobbyist, journalist, or policymaker

Citizen Action Site

Get inspired by **examples of citizens making a difference** in their communities and the nation

U.S. Marine Corps Memorial

Visit the larger-than-life representation of the **iconic flag-raising at Iwo Jima**

Dinner at Pentagon City

Mock Congress Workshop

Debate, amend, and vote on the same issues elected representatives are currently considering



WEDNESDAY

Capitol Hill Day

Walk the halls of Congress and get an exclusive, insider's look at how our government operates

Meet with your members of Congress or their staff

Attend **congressional committee hearings** to see how laws are formed

Explore the **Capitol Visitor Center and Museum**

Have **lunch at Longworth Cafeteria**, a hot spot for Washington insiders

Visit the **Supreme Court**, where landmark cases are decided

View the symbolic art and architecture at the **Library of Congress**, the largest library in the world

Witness the **Senate and House of Representatives** in action in the galleries

Dinner at Union Station

Washington Cultural Event

See a show at a famous theater or experience a **night on the town**

Social Time



THURSDAY

White House Study Visit

Discuss the role of the **executive branch** as you walk through the president's neighborhood

Citizen Action Seminar

Hear from an **advocacy organization** about how they are impacting the community

Neighborhood Study Visit and Lunch

Get off the beaten path in neighborhoods such as **Dupont Circle and Chinatown**

Air Force Memorial

Honor those who have served in the Air Force and get a breathtaking view of the city

Arlington Cemetery

Visit our nation's most hallowed ground and **witness the Changing of the Guard**

Closing Reflection

How will you **stay engaged** on issues that matter to you?

Banquet and Dance

Have a **memorable, fun-filled evening** with your new friends before returning home



FRIDAY

Sightsee in Washington

Prior to your departure, **spend some more time in the city** with your school

Depart for Home

“Close Up gave me the opportunity to visit famous historical sites and I was able to discuss major political and social issues with my workshop and learn from different perspectives. I am very grateful for this opportunity!”
- Lesley, Student, Arizona

PROGRAM COST FOR WASHINGTON D.C. (6 DAYS/5 NIGHTS):

Total Cost Per Student (Round-trip airfare from Duluth included): \$2,310

Total Cost Per Adult* (Round-trip airfare from Duluth included): \$2,660

** One teacher fellowship is provided for every 10 paying participants. Adults are roomed in double rooms unless participant elects to pay for a single room.*

ADDITIONAL DETAILS:

Program Dates: March 30 - April 4, 2025

\$500 Deposit Per Student Due: November 21, 2024

Final Payment Due: January 16, 2025

100% Cancellation Deadline: January 16, 2025

** Additional payments TBD; customizable based on funding plan.*

- Close Up provides a limited amount of financial aid for qualifying students.
- Teachers receive a \$40 stipend per full paying participant.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN CLOSE UP'S PROGRAM TUITION:

- One adult included for every 10 students;
- Round-trip airfare
- Coach bus transportation to and from all activities in Washington, DC;
- Three student meals a day and two adult meals a day starting with dinner on day of arrival;
- Quality hotel accommodations (students room four to a room);
- Comprehensive instruction from trained educators (two Instructors per bus and one Program Leader);
- Dedicated Close Up Partnership Coordinator, Curriculum Coordinator, and Program Leader to ensure quality program and stress-free logistics;
- Academic program materials (including student guidebook);
- Night monitors in every hotel;
- All program logistics and planning;
- Group photo, certificate, and Close Up souvenirs;
- Booking speakers and Congressional meetings;
- Liability insurance;
- All tips and gratuities;
- Medical access to Georgetown Pediatric Center; and
- 24/7 supervision and instruction.