

CLOSE UP HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Washington, DC



Sunday

Arrive in Washington

Meet your Close Up Concierge and explore DC with your school

Welcome Dinner

Group Orientation

Meet students from across the country and get to know your Close Up Program Instructor

Introduction Workshop*

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

Issues Debate

Ask your most challenging political questions and engage with a liberal and a conservative DC insider

* Workshops are small learning communities comprised 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.

Sample schedule subject to change.

Monday

Exploring American Political Values Study Visit*

Where do American political values come from and what do they mean today?

Jefferson Memorial—How do the rights outlined in the Founding Documents apply to our view of liberty today?

FDR Memorial—What rights are needed to ensure equality and promote the welfare of citizens in the US?

MLK Memorial—How do we see MLK's view of justice in the US today?

Lunch at Reagan Building and International Trade Center

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

Smithsonian Institution Exploration

Visit one of the world renowned museums to discover and 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 your new friends from across the country

Social Time

Tuesday

War Memorials Study Visit

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

Lincoln Memorial

How does the imagery of the Lincoln Memorial portray his legacy?

Capitol Hill Group Photo

Lunch at National Place

Embassy Discovery

Step foot on "foreign soil" and discuss the international political landscape

U.S. Marine Corps Memorial

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

Pentagon 9/11 Memorial

In what ways did the events of 9/11 change America forever?

Dinner at Pentagon City

Mock Congress Workshop & Simulation

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

Social Time

Wednesday

Capitol Hill Day

Meet with your members of Congress or their staff

Attend and observe Congressional Committee Hearings to see how laws and policies are formed

Explore the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center and Museum

Lunch at a Hill cafeteria, a hot spot for Washington insiders

Visit the Supreme Court where many landmark cases are decided

Explore the Library of Congress, the largest library in the world, and view the symbolic art and architecture

Witness the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives in action in the Galleries

Dinner at DC's Historic Union Station

DC Cultural Event

See a show at a renowned theater or cheer on the Washington Nationals baseball team!

Thursday

Sustaining Democracy Workshop

What citizen actions are necessary to foster and maintain a vibrant democracy?

White House Study Visit

Discuss the purpose of protests and what restrictions of protests are legitimate

Citizen Action Sites

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

Neighborhood Study Visit and Lunch

Explore DC off the beaten path, e.g. U Street, Chinatown

National Portrait Gallery

Come to know the people who have shaped our nation through this extensive collection of portraits

Arlington National 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

Enjoy a fun-filled evening with your new friends as you dance the night away

Friday

Sightsee in Washington

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

Depart for Home

Extend your stay!

Enhance your Close Up experience and spend an extra day in DC! Choose to visit the NEWSEUM DC's interactive museum of journalism and current events, or MT. VERNON George Washington's home in Virginia!

“Close Up was one of the best experiences ever! I will never forget this trip!”

- Michelle, Student, CA