

IMPACT: CREATING YOUTH ADVOCATES

High School Program Overview



A major focus of education is preparing young people for their roles as citizens in a democracy. Now more than ever, young people want to play a pivotal role in developing solutions and addressing inequities in the United States. During the 2022-23 school year, Close Up & the National Network of Schools in Partnership (NNSP) will bring together students from across the country to build the tools and knowledge to meaningfully engage with systemic issues and become catalysts for effective change in their communities.

Over the course of the program, students will deliberate about pressing national issues; explore the political and structural barriers to equity in our country; deepen understanding of existing campaigns for change; and work together to create meaningful solutions. By engaging young people from communities nationwide in meaningful dialogue, we aim to help students develop empathy for the perspectives of others and build the skills and confidence needed to empower a generation of change-makers.

2022-2023 Program Sessions

DELIBERATING SYSTEMIC ISSUES

How can you engage on controversial issues that matter to you and build empathy for diverse ideas and perspectives?

Six online synchronous 75-minute sessions starting October 11, 2022

Students will develop a deeper understanding of complex policy challenges facing the nation, connect those issues to long-standing values and tensions, and gain a rich understanding of the value of deliberation in a democracy. Students will examine major policy issues, evaluate proposals that represent a range of viewpoints, and consider, as a group, how to best address these issues. After developing a better understanding of their own values and priorities, students will participate in a training to develop the facilitation skills to lead controversial issue discussions in their own school communities.

COMMUNITY IMPACT SYMPOSIUM: RACE, JUSTICE, AND EQUITY

How can you create positive, systemic change in your school or local community?

In-person, Washington, DC, January 28-30, 2023

Students from across the country will consider how to create positive, systemic change in their school or local community. Students will better understand the political and structural barriers to equity in our systems of education, health, or justice; identify various approaches taken at the local, state, and national levels; and work in school-based teams to create a vision statement that incorporates their personal experiences and tangible action steps. The symposium will culminate with each school team sharing their vision with relevant administrators and community engagement experts at the 2023 **NNSP Conference**.

NATIONAL YOUTH IMPACT SUMMIT

What if, instead of looking to others for leadership, young people stepped up to communicate and compromise across differences in an effort to address societal challenges?

In-person, Washington, DC, Summer 2023

Join us this summer in Washington, DC! Students will gain the tools and knowledge to become catalyst for change in their communities. They will network with peers across the country; hear inspiring stories from young activists on strategies and models of advocacy and activism; deepen their understanding of issues and root causes in their communities. Students will work in diverse teams to create meaningful solutions and craft policy proposals to present to decisionmakers on Capitol Hill.

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High School Program Details

Program Eligibility

The programming is open to students in grades 9-12. Each school will have an opportunity to nominate a cohort of six students to represent their school in an examination of today's most pressing issues with students from across the country.

We strongly recommend that students who participate in the *National Youth Impact Summit* in Washington, DC, attend a Close Up [event](#) beforehand.

If you are interested in custom dates for an entire grade or course, please email us at programsupport@closeup.org.

Program Dates & Cost

Deliberating Systemic Issues

Tuesdays & Thursdays after school | October 11-27, 2022 | 8:00-9:15pm (EST) / 5:00-6:15pm (PST)

- **Cohort of 6 Students:** \$1,800
- **Individual Student Price:** \$300

Community Impact Symposium: Race, Justice, and Equity

In-person, Washington, DC, January 28-30, 2023

- **Details coming soon!**

National Youth Impact Summit

In-person, Washington, DC, Summer 2023

- **Details coming soon!**

Close Up and NNSP are deeply committed to equity and inclusion. If you require financial assistance, please email us at programsupport@closeup.org.

Registration

To register please visit our [website](#).

About Close Up

Established in 1971, [Close Up](#) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan civic education organization dedicated to helping students develop the knowledge and skills they need to become informed, active, and engaged citizens. Each year, Close Up helps thousands of students and teachers across the nation engage in civil discourse and take informed action in their communities.

About NNSP

The [National Network of Schools in Partnership](#) (NNSP) serves its members by providing implementation support, thought leadership, and advocacy. NNSP believes collaboration and partnerships are central to a strategy for improving equity in educational opportunities. NNSP thrives on the diversity of its members, which include organizations such as: public, charter and private schools; educational access and enrichment programs; and policy and education reform groups.