

NAIS STUDENT CIVIC LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The **NAIS Student Civic Leadership Summit** brings together high school students from across the country to build knowledge, develop strategies, and hone leadership skills to make a positive impact.

Through engagement with experts and collaborative inquiry into pressing national issues, students will consider their individual and collective responsibilities and agency, identify best practices in community engagement, and explore how the voices of other community members might shape their work toward a better future. Students will develop vision statements and strategies to make a difference in their own communities, and present those plans to teachers, administrators, and other participants in the 2025 NNSP Annual Conference.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Dates: Wednesday, February 5 - Friday, February 7, 2025

**Optional early arrival package – Tuesday, February 4.*

Tuition: \$1,300 per student (NAIS member rate) | \$1,450 per student (non-member rate). Tuition covers all programming, evening activities, meals, hotel accommodations, and daytime and nighttime supervision and security.

**Optional early arrival package - \$200 per student.*

Location: The summit will take place at a hotel in the Washington, DC, metro area.

Eligibility: The summit is open to high school students with an interest in civic action and community engagement. We ask that schools bring a cohort of 4-8 students.

Registration Process: An initial deposit is due to NAIS by June 15. [Register Here](#). Final payment is due to Close Up by October 15.

SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS: During this three-day summit, students will...

- Deepen their understanding of pressing national issues;
- Explore the ways in which these national—and even global—issues impact local communities;
- Deliberate on the barriers and structures that can make change difficult;
- Work in groups to create vision statements that incorporate tangible action steps; and
- Present their plans to educators and experts at the 2025 NNSP Annual Conference.

PRE-PROGRAM WORKSHOP

In November, we will host a program orientation via Zoom for registered students and advisors to hear more about the programming and identify what issue area they would like to focus on during the summit (climate, poverty, civic engagement, mental health).

ABOUT CLOSE UP & NNSP

Longtime partners before merging in 2023, Close Up and NNSP share a steadfast commitment to civics and community engagement. Together, we have over 50 years of experience partnering with school districts nationwide to serve more than one million students and educators through experiential learning programs in our nation's capital and in local communities, professional development, and curriculum design and consulting. Our goal is to connect what students learn in class to the real world around them, help them articulate their own views and listen to those of others, and engage with people of different backgrounds with tolerance and understanding. To learn more, visit closeup.org.



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SAMPLE SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY (2/5)

9am Optional Early Arrival Groups: Breakfast & National Museum of African American History and Culture Visit

12:00 Welcome Lunch & Orientation
1:30 IMPACTathon
3:30 Opening Workshop
4:00 Youth Civic Leaders Panel
5:15 School Advisor Check-in
6:00 Dinner
7:30 Night Monuments Tour
9:30 Student Lounge
11:00 Room Check

THURSDAY (2/6)

8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Current Issue Deliberation
10:45 School Group Reflection
12:00 Lunch & Neighborhood Exploration
2:00 Issue Group Community Engagement Seminar
3:15 Break
3:30 Community Action Deliberation
4:45 School Group Action Planning Session
5:30 School Advisor Check-in (optional)
6:00 Dinner & Social Activity
9:30 Student Lounge
11:00 Room Check

FRIDAY (2/7)

8:00 Breakfast
9:00 School Group Action Planning Session & Table Talk Prep
10:45 Closing Workshop
11:45 NNSP Conference Table Talks
12:30 Lunch and Depart for home

KEY COMPONENTS

Homeroom Groups: Students will take part in daily discussions, debriefs, and feedback sessions with their homeroom, a core group of students led by the same instructor each day.

IMPACTathon: Students will examine a challenge and work together to come up with a solution.

Youth Civic Leaders Panel: Students will hear from peers and organizations across the country dedicated to youth civic action.

Current Issue Deliberation: Students will develop a deeper understanding of their chosen issue area and discuss different policies and solutions that have been proposed to address it.

Community Engagement Seminar: By issue group, students will engage with issue experts and policymakers and ask questions to help shape their action planning.

Community Action Deliberation: As a group, students will deliberate on what types of actions they can take to address their chosen issue in their local communities.

Table Talks: Students will present their issue area and vision of the steps they plan to when they return home to participants at the NNSP Annual Conference.

FAQS

Do schools need to send a chaperone? Yes, a faculty advisor must attend the NNSP Annual Conference while students participate in the Summit.

Do I need to arrange hotel rooms for my students? NO. Hotel rooms are included in the cost of the summit. Students will room two to a room and be paired with students from their school.

Do I need to provide meals for my students? NO. All meals are included in the price of the program. We will be sure to be aware of any food allergies and make all the necessary accommodations.

Do I have to check my students in at night and monitor them overnight? NO. There will be night monitors on each hall who will check the students into their rooms each night and are available should they need anything overnight.

Can I check in on my students during the program? YES. You can observe the students in action at any point and we have built in time during the summit for advisors check-ins.

What will the students do at night? Close Up will provide excursions for the students to keep them entertained. We will be sure to have them see a bit of DC but also allow them time to socialize and have some fun.