

NATIVE ISSUES ONLINE SUMMIT

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The *Native Issues Online Summit* equips high school students with the tools and knowledge they need to become catalysts for change. Students will examine issues in their communities, nations, and the United States as a whole, and develop action plans to address those issues. Over the course of six 90-minute sessions, students will build relationships with their peers and others, hear from young activists about strategies and models of advocacy and activism, deepen their understanding of community issues and their root causes, and work together to create meaningful solutions.

Program Sessions

Each 90-minute session will be led by Close Up facilitators:

- **Building Community and Purpose:** Students will meet their fellow participants, share their stories and perspectives to build understanding, and identify shared commitments and goals. They will also complete an issue inventory to form working groups for developing action plans.
- **Using Stories to Make Change:** Students will engage with an indigenous activist to learn their story and the experiences they have had as a change-maker. They will develop the skills necessary to tell their own stories, helping them to create more dynamic action plans and more effectively create change.
- **Identifying Stakeholders:** Students will analyze who has power and influence over their chosen issue and who might support them in their work. This will lead to a deeper understanding of tribal governance, the historical relationship with the federal government, and the relevant agencies and committees that impact Indian Country.
- **Coalition Building, Organizing, and Activism:** Students will consider various paths for making change and identify what tools and approaches work best for their action initiatives.
- **Developing Action Plans:** Students will formalize their committee action plans and prepare for their final presentations.
- **Shark Tank-Style Presentations:** Students will share their projects and what they have learned with a team of guest panelists.

Program Details

Program Dates: Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, November 3-18, 2020

Program Time: 3:30pm-5:00pm (CST)

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 country engage in civil discourse and take informed action in their communities. Close Up has worked with American Indian tribes for over 30 years, providing students with opportunities to examine current issues facing Native communities and the complex relationship between tribes and the federal government. Close Up has long-standing partnerships with BIE, NCAI, NIEA, and the USET organization, creating programs designed for both Native and non-Native students. Close Up's trained instructors will facilitate small-group discussions and guide students through their project work.

For questions about the program and how to register, please contact Cory Gassett at cgassett@closeup.org or (904)703-5887.

