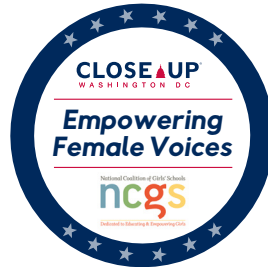


# EMPOWERING FEMALE VOICES: NCGS CIVIC AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW



In January 2021, Close Up and the National Coalition of Girls' Schools will launch *Empowering Female Voices: NCGS Civic Ambassadors*, a special opportunity to nominate three 8th grade students (ages 13-14) to represent your school in an examination of today's most pressing issues with other girls from around the world. Through this series of four online civic engagement workshops, students will build relationships, connect their experiences and personal stories to ongoing global debates and policy deliberations, develop the skills needed for active citizenship, and share what they have learned as civic ambassadors with their greater school communities.

By engaging girls from different backgrounds in meaningful dialogue, we aim to help them develop empathy for the perspectives of others and build the confidence needed to empower a generation of female change-makers.

## PROGRAM SESSIONS

Each 75-minute synchronous session will be led by Close Up facilitators:

**Session 1 – Building an Inclusive Community and Exploring Perspectives:** Students will share their stories, experiences, and ideas about gender, equity, and justice as they create a community timeline. Facilitators will help students make connections between the themes that emerge in the community timeline and the broader political, social, and economic issues that exist in our interconnected world.

**Session 2 – Understanding a Pressing National or Global Issue that Matters to You:** To lay the groundwork for a deliberation about a key issue, students will participate in a root cause activity and think specifically about the parts of the issue they might want to address. Students will choose from one of the following deliberation topics:

- **Racial Injustice and Human Rights:** In the wake of global protests, how should we address racial injustice and ensure that all citizens enjoy the same rights and privileges?
- **Educational Equity:** How should we address inequalities of access and opportunity for students, especially girls and young women?
- **Environmental Justice:** How can we address the long-term impacts of human beings on the planet and the inequities caused by our energy consumption and material waste?

**Session 3 – Pathways for Creating Change:** Students will consider how people make an impact by examining case studies of young women activists who have affected change in their communities. Through these stories, students will learn that there are many pathways to change, and they will consider what strategies they might use to address an issue they care about.

**Session 4 – Civic Engagement in Your Community:** In the final session, students will reflect on their experiences of meeting girls from across the globe, and consider how they, as civic ambassadors, can bring civic engagement tools back to their school communities. Facilitators will help students consider which of these approaches—the community timeline, the root cause analysis, or the case studies of change-makers—would have the greatest impact on their peers as well as their broader communities.

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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### Session Dates and Times

**NCGS Civic Ambassadors Program** | Every Wednesday, February 3 – February 24, 2021, from 7:30-8:45pm (EST) / 4:30-5:45pm (PST)  
(Each school will be combined with other NCGS schools nationwide for their discussion sessions.)

If you are interested in customized dates, for a program that will include participants from your school only, please reach out to us at [ncgs@closeup.org](mailto:ncgs@closeup.org).

### Eligibility & Cost

This program is intended for 8th grade girls who attend NCGS schools. You may nominate three 8th grade students (ages 13-14) to represent your school and become civic ambassadors. This program session is exclusively for NCGS member schools for students in grade 8, and includes the following special rate\*:

- **3 Student Ambassadors:** \$450 per NCGS school

### Registration

Space is limited to 50 schools! Please contact [ncgs@closeup.org](mailto:ncgs@closeup.org) to confirm your participation or for more information.

**Note:** Final student ambassador names are not due until January 15, 2021.

### 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. Close Up's resources and programs offer students a balanced and bipartisan look at controversial issues by using a selection of primary sources drawn from decision-makers and experts on all parts of the political spectrum. Close Up Instructors have over 120 hours of curriculum and methodology training and are experts in facilitating student discussions around controversial issues. 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 the National Coalition of Girls' Schools

[NCGS](#) is the leading advocate for girls' schools, connecting and collaborating globally with individuals, schools, and organizations dedicated to educating and empowering girls. NCGS serves across the U.S., Canada, and abroad nearly 260 PK-12 girls' schools (independent, public, charter, religiously affiliated), 26,000 educators, 115,000 students, and over one million alumnae. NCGS supports its member school educators through advocacy, research, professional development, and networking.