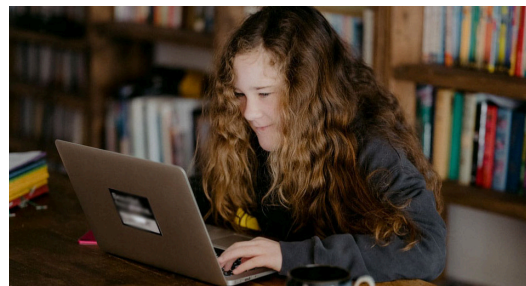
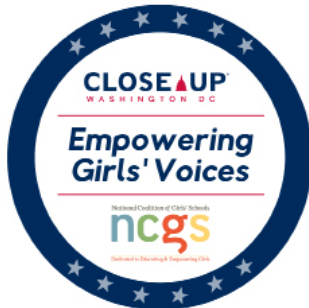


EMPOWERING GIRLS' VOICES: NCGS MIDDLE SCHOOL CIVIC LEADERS PROGRAM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



In April 2021, Close Up and the National Coalition of Girls' Schools will launch *Empowering Girls' Voices: Civic Leaders*, a special opportunity to connect 6th and 7th grade students across the world who are eager to learn how they can become active and involved members of their communities. Through this series of four online civic engagement workshops, students will build relationships, connect their experiences and personal stories to community issues, and develop the foundational skills needed for active citizenship. Students will leave the program equipped with a better understanding of issues affecting their communities and an action plan to advocate for impactful change.

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 change-makers.

Program Sessions

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

Session 1 – Building Community and Understanding Neighborhoods: Students will begin by sharing their stories, experiences, and ideas through the creation of a community timeline. After team-building, the session will focus on neighborhoods and local issues, systems that are in place to support community members, and how those systems can sometimes lead to inequity and gaps in opportunity.

Session 2 – Developing Purpose and Leadership Skills: Students will participate in a series of activities aimed at helping them to develop their sense of purpose and consider what leadership skills and advocacy strategies they can employ to make change in their own communities.

Session 3 – Creating Just Communities: Students will take part in an interactive simulation of several decision-making organizations that are responding to pressing community issues. Students will reflect on the themes of justice, equality, and democracy that emerge from the simulations, and consider the role of citizens in advancing those ideals.

- **Scenario 1 (Student Advisory Committee Meeting):** How should a school district respond to a string of racist incidents on and near middle school campuses?
- **Scenario 2 (Editorial Board Meeting):** How should public media balance concerns about free speech, community standards, and misinformation?
- **Scenario 3 (Town Hall Meeting):** How should a community respond to a rise in homelessness?
- **Scenario 4 (Town Hall Meeting):** How should a community respond to a lack of access to public parks and green spaces in neighborhoods where poor people and people of color are most concentrated?

Session 4 – Designing Action Plans: In small groups, students will engage in a “design-thinking” activity that will help them develop a personal action plan for bringing about community change on the issues that matter most to them.

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PROGRAM DETAILS

Session Dates and Times

NCGS National Middle School Program | Every Thursday, April 22 – May 13 from 7:00 – 8:15pm (EST) / 4:00-5:15pm (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.

Eligibility and Cost

This program session and special rate is exclusively for NCGS member schools for students in grades 6 and 7 (ages 11-13). You may nominate three 6th grade students and three 7th grade students to represent your school as civic leaders.

- **6 Student Leaders:** \$900 per NCGS school
- **Individual Price:** \$150 per student

Registration

Space is limited to 120 students! Please complete this [form](#) or contact ncgs@closeup.org to register for the program.

Note: Student names are not due until April 6, 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.