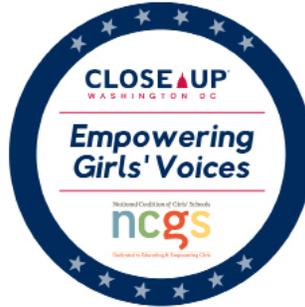


EMPOWERING GIRLS' VOICES: MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH SUMMIT 2021

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Never has there been a more important time for young women to understand the challenges facing our democracy, to engage with diverse perspectives, and to make their voices heard. In June 2021, Close Up and the National Coalition of Girls' Schools will host the first annual *Empowering Girls' Voices: Middle School Youth Summit*, a special opportunity for middle school girls to build the tools and knowledge they need to become catalysts for change in their communities. Over the course of the 5-day Youth Summit, students will build relationships; connect their experiences and personal stories to community issues; consider how to create a more inclusive and representative democracy; and develop plans to involve their communities in future action.

Over 1,000 students from more than 60 Girls' Schools participated in the *Empowering Girls' Voices* programming this year – the Youth Summit is designed to bring these girls and other highly motivated girls together for an immersive and impactful week. By engaging middle school 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 two-hour, synchronous session will be led by Close Up facilitators.

Session 1 – Building Community & Understanding Diverse Perspectives: Share stories, experiences, and ideas that help inform your perspective. After getting to know each other, participate in a series of activities to develop your sense of purpose and consider what skills you need to create change.

Session 2 – Creating Just Communities: Take part in interactive simulations of organizations that are responding to pressing community issues. Deliberate about scenarios and make recommendations for how to ensure greater equity in these communities. *Sample Scenario (Simulated Town Hall Meeting): How should a community respond to a rise in homelessness?*

Session 3 – Deliberating about Current Issues: Develop a deeper understanding of an issue that matters to you and engage with multiple perspectives to build empathy and open-mindedness. Topics may include:

- **Racial Injustice and Human Rights:** How should we address racial injustice and ensure that all Americans enjoy the same rights and privileges?
- **Gender Equity and Women's Rights:** How do we achieve true gender equity and close the political and economic gaps that remain for American women?
- **Health Care and COVID-19:** COVID-19 has shown the ways in which social and economic factors affect health outcomes in the United States. How should we address inequalities of access and care?

Session 4 – Storytelling and Community Change: Consider the roles that stories and identity play in advocating for change, and engage with a young organizer in order to learn more about the processes of advocacy and making community change.

Session 5 – Pathways for Creating Change: How can you make an impact in your community? Engage in a “design-thinking” activity to develop a personal action plan for bringing about change on an issue that matters most to you. Reflect on the program and discuss how you can continue to act as an informal network of support for each other.

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PROGRAM DETAILS

Session Dates and Times

Summer NCGS Middle School Youth Summit | Monday, June 21 - Friday, June 25, 2021 from 12:00-2:00pm (EST) / 9:00-11:00am (PST)

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

The youth summit is intended for girls who attend NCGS schools in grades 6, 7, and 8 and who have an interest in connecting with other young women to discuss how to become changemakers in their communities.

Students must have completed one-year of middle school by the start of the program.

Cost per student: \$250

Registration

Please [register](#) by June 2, 2021 or contact ncgs@closeup.org with any questions.

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 multipartisan 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.