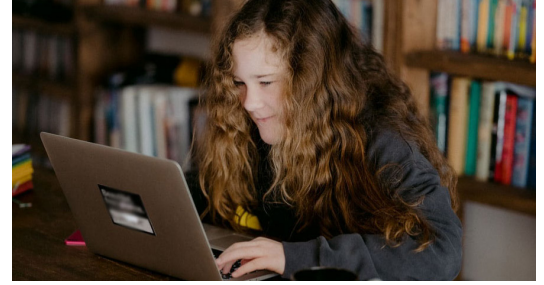


EMPOWERING GIRLS' VOICES: GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Never has there been a more important time for young people to connect across distance and divides, engage with diverse perspectives, and understand pressing global issues. During the 2021-2022 school year, Close Up and the National Coalition of Girls' Schools will bring together middle school students (ages 11-14) from around the world to build inclusive communities, develop the skills needed for active citizenship, and learn from the stories, the successes, and the setbacks of other young change-makers.

Over 1,000 students from more than 65 girls' schools participated in *Empowering Girls' Voices* in its inaugural year of programming; we hope to continue to expand this network in 2021-2022. By engaging girls from communities worldwide in meaningful dialogue, we aim to help them develop empathy for the perspectives of others and build the skills and confidence needed to empower a generation of active and engaged citizens.

Program Objectives

Over the course of the sessions, students will:

- Practice communication and cooperation in diverse groups in order to understand multiple perspectives.
- Participate in a root cause analysis of pressing issues in order to understand that problems facing our communities are complex but solvable.
- Learn from the stories, the successes, and the setbacks of other young changemakers.
- Gain confidence in their ability to understand and discuss complex issues and increase their sense of political efficacy and empowerment.

2021-2022 Program Options

NCGS Civic Ambassadors Program (8th Grade, ages 13-14)

Six online synchronous 60-minute sessions starting September 27, 2021

The Civic Ambassadors program is a special opportunity to nominate six 8th grade students to represent your school in an examination of today's most pressing issues with other girls from across the world. Through this series of six online civic engagement workshops, students will build relationships, connect their experiences and personal stories to ongoing political debates and policy deliberations, and return back home to share what they have learned as civic ambassadors of their school communities.

NCGS Civic Leaders Program (6th and 7th Grade, ages 11-13)

Five online synchronous 60-minute sessions starting January 24, 2022

The Civic Leaders program helps students build the foundational skills for active and engaged citizenship. Students will share their stories, experiences, and ideas through the creation of a community timeline; learn about neighborhoods and the systems that are in place to support community members and how those systems can lead to inequity and opportunity gaps; and consider how individuals make an impact by examining case studies of young women activists who have affected change in their communities. Through this program, students will learn that there are many pathways to change, and consider strategies they might use to address an issue they care about in their local community.

Girls' National Youth Summit (Rising 8th and 9th Graders, ages 13-14)

Four-day in-person program, Washington, DC, June 2022

This four-day Youth Summit for rising 8th & rising 9th graders equips students with the tools and knowledge they need to become catalysts for change. Students will network with diverse peers, hear inspiring stories from young female activists about models of advocacy and activism, enhance their understanding of community issues and root causes, consider how to best address those issues, and evaluate proposals that represent a range of viewpoints.

EMPOWERING GIRLS' VOICES: GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

PROGRAM DETAILS

Program Eligibility

The Civic Ambassadors program is open to 8th grade students and the Civic Leaders program is designed for 6th and 7th graders. Each school will have an opportunity to nominate a cohort of 6 students per program to represent their school in an examination of today's most pressing issues with students from around the world.

In order to be eligible for the Girls' National Youth Summit in Washington, DC, students must attend at least one of the online programs and be a rising 8th or rising 9th grader.

If you are interested in custom dates for an entire grade or course, please email us at ncgs@closeup.org.

Opportunities for Educators

Close Up will offer a series of one-hour professional development workshops to ensure that educators feel confident and prepared to support students both before and after the Close Up-led issue discussions. The workshops will also provide strategies and resources that teachers can incorporate into their classrooms and use with all students. Workshops may include:

- **Building an Inclusive Community for Civil Dialogue:** How can you establish a community that accounts for a diversity of student experience, interest, and learning profiles?
- **Navigating Challenging Scenarios:** Explore a set of scenarios on topics such as criminal justice, COVID-19, and protests, and learn actionable techniques to keep students on track when discourse breaks down.
- **Making Your Classroom More Deliberative:** Why is it critical to address controversial topics with students through issue-centered education? What resources and facilitation techniques foster informed and constructive in-class deliberation?

Program Dates & Cost

Civic Ambassadors Program

Mondays & Wednesdays | September 27-October 13, 2021 | 6:15-7:15pm (EDT) / 3:15-4:15pm (PDT)

On Monday November 15, 2021, a final reflection and debrief will take place following student facilitated discussions at their schools.

Note: There will not be a session on October 11th.

- **Cohort of 6 Students:** \$1200 per NCGS member school
- **Individual Student Price:** \$250

Civic Leaders Program

Mondays & Wednesdays | January 24-February 7, 2022 | 6:15-7:15pm (EDT) / 3:15-4:15pm (PDT)

- **Cohort of 6 Students:** \$1200 per NCGS member school
- **Individual Student Price:** \$250

Four-Day Girls' National Youth Summit

June 2022! Dates coming soon.

- Approximately \$1600 + Airfare per student

Close Up and NCGS are deeply committed to ensuring that Close Up programs are available to students of all backgrounds. For Online Series #1 and Series #2, Close Up and NCGS will offer need-based financial aid for students that qualify. Close Up is committed to fundraising for the Youth Policy Summit and will provide a limited number of scholarships for students who qualify.

Registration

To register, please visit our [website](#).

EMPOWERING GIRLS' VOICES: GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

PROGRAM INSIGHTS

Hear what participants have to say about their Empowering Girls' Voices experience!

"The **collaboration between students** from different schools was such an important learning experience! It was such a fun way to **increase engagement on serious issues.**"

– Teacher, Hockaday School (TX)

"I absolutely loved **learning about topics I am passionate about** with girls from across the country who feel the same way. The environment was so welcoming, fun, and collaborative, even over Zoom. I cannot even express how grateful I am for this experience."

– Student, Sacred Heart Greenwich (CT)

"The most impactful thing about the Empowering Girls' Voices Program was that it **shaped me to be more confident** and to ask myself "What can I do?" instead of "Wow, I wish there was something I can do." I felt more empowered and more confident as we did each session."

– Student, Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School (TX)

Survey Data

Surveys of middle and high school students who participated in Empowering Girls' Voices programs revealed dramatic increases in the students' civic knowledge and attitudes.

- 100% of girls said the program helped them better understand current issues.
- 95% of girls said the program helped them feel empowered to use their voice to make change.
- 99% of girls said they would recommend this program to a friend.
- Pre-program, 31% of girls felt comfortable discussing their ideas about government with others; post program, 87% of students replied in the affirmative.

What makes Close Up a unique civic education organization?

Facilitation Experience: Our methodology is informed by our 50 years of experience facilitating conversations about complex social and political issues with students from all over the United States. While many civic education organizations provide training and curriculum for educators, Close Up is unique in that we implement and adapt our approach based on working directly with over 20,000 diverse students from across the U.S. each year.

Learning through Deliberation: In a strong democracy, citizens digest and use information, debate, hold each other and political representatives accountable, and work together to solve problems. Close Up provides students with the opportunity to learn through experience by modeling and practicing democratic dispositions such as openness, understanding and respectfully engaging with multiple perspectives, and civic leadership.

Teaching with Controversial Issues: All of our work is designed to help students grapple with current issues, draw connections between past and present-day events, and be informed, engaged, and inspired to advocate for their own beliefs. Our resources and instructional approach help students explore the values and worldviews that animate debates and tensions, and expose students to a broad array of political ideologies.

Opportunities for Continued Civic Engagement: Throughout the school year, Close Up will host monthly deliberations on controversial policy issues open to high school students across the country. Students will have the opportunity to engage with diverse perspectives, evaluate