

CIVICS MATTERS

In Collaboration With Governor Ducey & the Arizona Cardinals

Arizona



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Governor Doug Ducey, in collaboration with the Arizona Cardinals, announces an annual statewide civics competition for students in grades 8-11. The winners will receive an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, DC. This once-in-a-lifetime experience, organized in partnership with the Close Up Foundation, is scheduled for June 22-25, 2022, and will include over 250 students and teachers from across the state of Arizona. Visit www.closeup.org/civics-matters-AZ for more information!

OBJECTIVES

To expand upon one of Governor Ducey's education priorities, the program will bring students to the nation's capital not only to see and tour the historic sites that are the foundation of our republic but also to inform, inspire and empower students to become active participants in our democracy.

ORGANIZATION

Partnering with Close Up, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, civic education organization with over 50 years of experience, students will get a hands-on education including meetings with elected officials, conversations with experts and behind-the-scenes opportunities to learn about how our government works.

ELIGIBILITY

Participating schools* will invite students in grades 8-11 to submit a 500-word essay in response to one of three prompts:

1. *How can young people be involved in their community or their government?*
2. *What is one example of a young person who has made a difference in the community or the world? How has this person inspired you?*
3. *The preamble of the Constitution begins: "We the people, in order to form a more perfect union..." What should the United States do to build a "more perfect" union?*

Each school will set judging criteria and govern the selection of 5-10 students to participate in the program with a goal of reaching students from all communities and backgrounds without regard to race, religion, gender, socioeconomic status or academic standing.

TIMELINE

March 30th – [Q&A session](#) for teachers and administrators at 3pm (Arizona Time).

April 1st – [Submit intent](#) for school to participate.

April 8th – Confirmation notification and next steps.

April 22nd – Student essays and parent permission slips due to sponsoring teacher.

April 29th – Final selection of students due to Close Up. Please upload your participant list and finalist essays here.

Early May – Parent Information session (date and time TBD).

May 20th – Final deadline for students to be fully registered in the Close Up system (or spots will be offered to waitlist).

June 22nd – Depart for Washington, DC!

**While a statewide competition with broad participation by all public schools is envisioned, time constraints for this year's inaugural launch necessitate a targeted approach to those schools serving our highest need students to ensure a life-changing experience for students who might otherwise never have this opportunity.*



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CONNECT: