

CIVIC PROGRAM INSTRUCTORS

OVERVIEW



Gain vital skills, build lasting relationships, and inspire and empower young people nationwide!

If you are dedicated to making a difference and possess a profound interest in education, nonprofit work, or history, government, and policy, we invite you to join Close Up as a Civic Program Instructor! In this position, you will have the unique opportunity to inspire and engage young individuals in the intricate world of politics and government. Your role will involve breaking down the barriers of polarization, fostering open dialogue, and nurturing a deep understanding of civic responsibility among youth.

Who Are Civic Program Instructors?

Civic Program Instructors are the driving force behind our mission. They care about government, policy, and civic education and engagement. They work directly with middle and high school students from all 50 states and U.S. territories in the epicenter of action, introducing them to Washington, D.C., and empowering them to be active citizens.

This role is ideal for:

- Anyone considering a career in politics, policy, or nonprofit work.
- Educators seeking change from the traditional classroom.
- Those who are curious to see if D.C. is the right fit for them.

Instructors arrive at Close Up from a variety of backgrounds but share the common desire to engage in meaningful work. **If you are considering a career in politics, policy, or nonprofit work**, it's an opportunity to engage with a diverse crowd of people, network on Capitol Hill, and discover what drives you. **For educators**, it's a chance to work in a supportive and exciting environment with student-centered curriculum, personal coaching, and professional development provided. Place-based education is a way for students to engage with democracy in a way they cannot in the confines of a classroom. **For those curious to see if D.C. is the place for you**, it's your chance to learn your way around the city, hear stories about the nation's capital, and get a feel for city living.

About Close Up

Close Up is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, civic education organization that informs, inspires, and empowers young people to become active citizens. Since 1971, we have partnered with school districts nationwide to serve more than one million students and educators through experiential learning programs in our nation's capital and in local communities, professional development, and curriculum design and consulting. Our goal is to connect what students learn in class to the real world around them and help them articulate their own views, listen to those of others, and engage with people of different backgrounds with tolerance and understanding. To learn more, visit www.CloseUp.org.

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What Do Civic Program Instructors Do?

As a Civic Program Instructor, you'll join a tightly knit team in Close Up's Curriculum Department, working together to serve young people of all backgrounds in experiential, multi-day civic education programs.

You'll have the opportunity to:

- Work with diverse students from public and private schools, rural and urban communities, and all 50 states and U.S. territories.
- Guide a "workshop" of approximately 25 students throughout each program, leading that group in impactful discussions, government simulations, and historical site visits.
- Facilitate meetings between students and elected officials, policy experts, and nonprofit leaders, building meaningful connections along the way.
- Get to know Washington, D.C., like the back of your hand, with opportunities to travel to New York City, Philadelphia, Williamsburg, and other historical cities.
- Participate in continuous training and professional development.
- Work in partnership with your fellow Civic Program Instructors, developing an incredible network of colleagues who become lifelong friends.

Salary, Benefits, and Experience

As you engage students of all perspectives and help them move beyond the echo chambers of social media, you'll also receive invaluable experience and benefits, including:

- An annualized salary of \$41,592
- Generous benefits (including medical and dental insurance, no-cost life/AD&D insurance, all meals while working on program, mass transit subsidy or free garage parking, cell phone reimbursement, paid sick leave, and the opportunity to earn free graduate credit)
- Eligibility for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program
- Comprehensive training and coaching in our methodology and program logistics
- Exposure to elected officials, policy experts, and issue advocates
- An extensive network of colleagues, alumni, and leaders in politics, policy, and nonprofits
- Leadership and skill development

How Do You Apply?

Application are now open for our **February 2 – June 30, 2026**, contract term. Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis, so [apply here](#) as soon as possible!