

Class/Group Bigfork Middle School 7th and 8th grade - Trip to D.C. with

Staff member in charge: Close Up Foundation Julie Bonner

Supervision (chaperones): Dependent on group size, 1

Date of Trip: April 17th - 23 Destination: Washington D.C.

Departure Time: 5:00 pm Return Time: 11:00 pm

Transportation method: Bus Transportation Dept has been notified: yes no
If needed, bus or van is available yes no

Instructional Objectives: 1) Experiential education

- 2) Cooperative learning amongst students from other schools
- 3) Promote Civic education
- 4) Issue centered curriculum

Pre learning activities: 1) Interest meeting 2025

2) Group fundraising, pretravel meetings

Post learning activities: 1) Encourage students to be active citizens in our community

2) Awareness of state and local issues

Is this an overnight activity? yes Is this an out-of-state activity? yes

Proposed itinerary (attach additional pages as needed):

Estimated Cost (including travel): See attached

Housing: Hotel

Funding Source: Fundraising
(All money must be turned in to the office before trip departure.)

Submitted by Julie Bonner date: 1/13/25

Principal approval (all trips) [Signature] Superintendent approval (overnight trips) [Signature]
Board of Trustee approval (out of state trips) _____

PROGRAM INFORMATION



Get excited for our upcoming trip! We will be participating in the Close Up program, a dynamic hands-on civic education program for students.

Close Up is a non-profit, non-partisan civic education organization founded 50 years ago with a mission to inform, inspire and empower students to become life-long, active participants in our democracy.

PROGRAM COST

What's included:

- Program tuition and instruction
- Academic materials
- Quality hotel accommodations
- 3 meals per day during the program
- Close Up Representative for your school
- Access to Georgetown Medical Center
- 24-hour adult supervision and security
- All entrance fees and gratuities
- Group photo, certificate and souvenir
- Limited accidental injury policy
- Coach bus transportation around the city
- Roundtrip airfare*

Total all-inclusive cost per student: \$ See pricing in 'notes'.

**Close Up group transportation package not included for all schools. Please consult with your trip coordinator regarding travel arrangements.*

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- \$250.00 early bird payment due June 30, 2025 (non-refundable)
- * The price will increase after this deadline
- \$500.00 due November 3, 2025 (non-refundable)
- Remaining balance due January 29, 2026

Please note that you can make payments online at your convenience. All questions regarding payment procedures at the school should be directed to the trip coordinator.

Please SIGN UP for this program by returning the bottom portion of this info sheet to:

Teacher Name Ms. Julie Bonner Date _____

Once you sign up, you will be given individual account login information to enroll online, make payments and access program information at www.closeup.org.

CUT HERE

Student First Name: _____ Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Student Last Name: _____ Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Student Gender: _____ Parent/Guardian Phone: _____

Trip Coordinator:

Name: Julie Bonner

Email: julieb@bigfork.k12.mt.us

Program Dates: April 18 - April 23
April 18 - April 25

Program Sites: Washington, DC, & Williamsburg with an additional option to add-on NYC!

NOTES:

We'll be offering two program options in 2026:

1) DC & Williamsburg (Sunday, April 18 to Thursday, April 23). Cost per student is \$2,346 and \$2,696 per adult.

2) DC, Williamsburg and New York City (Sunday, April 18 to Saturday, April 25). Cost per student is \$3,216 and \$3,566 per adult.

Please note, the costs listed include airfare from Missoula. We will also look into airfare from Kalispell as the trip dates get closer which may change costs.

CLOSE UP MIDDLE SCHOOL - WASHINGTON, DC + NYC



SUNDAY

Arrive in Washington
Meet your Close Up concierge and explore the city with your school

Welcome Dinner

Group Orientation
Meet students from across the country who you will spend the week with and get to know your Close Up program instructors

Workshop: Understanding the Role of a Citizen*
What actions can citizens take to participate in democracy?

Sample schedule subject to change.

**Workshops are small learning communities made up of students from various states. Each workshop community is led by the same Close Up program instructor for the duration of the trip.*

*** Study visits led by highly trained instructors provide unique opportunities to learn using historic sites and institutions as living classrooms.*

CS-1002082-40: Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.



MONDAY

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Study Visit**
Examine the impact individual actions can have on the government

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Study Visit
Look at the effect civil rights movements can have on the country

Lunch at L'Enfant Plaza

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Study Visit
What current issues have the greatest impact on your generation?

U.S. Marine Corps Memorial
Visit the larger-than-life statue of the iconic flag-raising at Iwo Jima

Arlington National Cemetery
Visit this hallowed ground and witness the Changing of the Guard

Dinner at Pentagon City Mall

Workshop: Community Citizenship Skills
Consider the challenges of creating laws



TUESDAY

Congressional Deliberation
Examine pressing national issues and deliberate on policy options

White House Study Visit
Discuss the role of the executive branch as you walk through the president's neighborhood

Lunch at Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center

Capitol Hill Study Visit
Walk the halls of Congress to get a first-hand look at how the legislative branch works

Capitol Hill Group Photo

Smithsonian National Museum of American History
Explore history and culture at this world-renowned museum

Dinner at Hard Rock Café

Evening Monuments on the National Mall
Visit the WWII, Korean War, Vietnam, and Lincoln Memorials as they illuminate the night sky



WEDNESDAY

Workshop: Citizenship Send-Off
Set goals and identify ways in which you can be more active and involved in your community

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History Study Visit and Lunch
Explore the history of the natural world through this collection of 145 million specimens and artifacts

Independent Time
Spend the afternoon exploring other sites in Washington, DC, with your school, such as:

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum

National Portrait Gallery

Dinner



THURSDAY

Depart for New York City

Lunch at a NYC Deli

American Natural History Museum Exploration
See several exhibits and contemplate how they tell the overall story of the museum

Central Park Study Visit
Visit landmarks such as **Strawberry Fields, Imagine Circle, and Belvedere Castle**

Dinner in Times Square
Enjoy dinner under the bright lights in this iconic **New York destination**

Times Square Study Visit
Visit Broadway - 'The Great White Way' - in New York City's famous theater district

Performance at a Broadway Theater
See a show and experience first-hand why New York City is considered the **cultural capital of the nation**



FRIDAY

Ferry Ride from Battery Park to Liberty Island

Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island
See where **millions of immigrants entered the U.S.** and explore the history of immigration policy

Lunch

Financial District and 9/11 Memorial Study Visits
Explore the **Financial District** and **9/11 Memorial**

Brooklyn Bridge Walk
Take in the **breathtaking views** from this iconic bridge

Dinner in Little Italy

Rockefeller Plaza
See 360 degrees of NYC from **Top of the Rock**

SATURDAY

Sightsee in the Big Apple
Prior to your departure, spend some more time in the city with your school

Depart for Home