



WASHINGTON, D.C. & COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG 2027

WITH CLOSE-UP FOUNDATION

FOR BOLLES STUDENTS IN
GRADES 7 & 8

Travel Dates

February 28-March 4, 2027

Cost

Approximately \$2,180

Contacts

Allison Chandler
ChandlerA@Bolles.org
Michael Stephens
(StephensM@bolles.org),
Kristina Escudero '09
(EscuderoK@Bolles.org)

APPLICATIONS AND DEPOSITS

\$500 Deposit due October 2, 2026.
Submit application and deposit by
check, in person, to Mr. Stephens.

FINAL PAYMENT

DUE DECEMBER 10, 2026



CLOSE-UP FOUNDATIONS CIVICS AND CIVIL DISCOURSE

Travel to Washington, D.C. and Colonial Williamsburg to take part in The Close-Up Foundations civics and civil discourse program. Close-Up is a non-profit, non-partisan education organization with over 50 years of experience. Their goal is to inform, inspire and empower young people to become active and engaged citizens and to develop the skills and attitudes necessary to become leaders in their schools and communities. Each week in the Spring, Close-Up brings together students from across the country to experience the nation's capital as a living classroom, using the sites and monuments as the foundation for student workshops, discussions and curriculum. On Wednesday, we'll spend the day in Williamsburg to immerse students in the life of a colonial city.

For more information, visit

Bolles.org/global-learning-and-engagement/travel-programs

WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Washington Middle School Program provides students hands-on opportunities to interact with government and history and to examine their own power as citizens in a democracy. Students will observe policymaking in action during a visit to Capitol Hill and key institutions and historic sites will be used as experiential classrooms to help students explore the links between history and today. Emphasis will be placed on how the actions of ordinary citizens can directly affect public policy making.

PROGRAM GOALS

The Washington Middle School Program aims to build students' sense of connection to the prospects and challenges of democratic citizenship. Students will undertake hands on examination of the actions, people, events, and the debates surrounding enduring questions that have shaped our political system. Students will gain a greater understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy. They will do this through exploration of the formal institutions of government and other constitutionally protected means through which citizens have historically and continuously influenced the direction and focus of American politics, policy, and society. Students will also gain greater understanding of the impact that government has on their lives.

BASIC PROGRAM STRUCTURE AND DESIGN

- Students attend the Washington Middle School Program for a 4 or 5-day session (Sunday arrival through Wednesday departure for core, Sunday through Thursday departure for travel add-on.)
- Typically, 150 to 200 students are based at one hotel for the program week.
- Students are assigned to workshop groups of approximately 20 to 24 students. The workshop stays together throughout the week and encounters most of the week's program components together; each workshop has one instructor who works with those students throughout the week. Two workshops combine to make a bus group of approximately 40 to 48 students who also work together.
- A separate program is offered for teachers and chaperones.
- Each student receives a *Student Guidebook* that serves as a journal and study guide for a variety of study visits and activities throughout the week.
- The WMSP has a Question of the Week and a Question of the Day for each day. The Question of the Week is: *What can young people do to take part in American democracy?*
- The Questions of the Day are:
 - Sunday: *What actions can citizens take to participate in a democracy?*
 - Monday: *What actions can citizens take to influence the government?*
 - Tuesday: *How can citizens participate in their government?*
 - Final Day: *What can young people do to take part in American democracy?*
- During an optional travel day to Gettysburg, Philadelphia or Williamsburg, students will closely examine key people and events that have shaped American democracy.
 - The travel question of the day is: *How do the ideas represented in [insert city] have an effect on the lives of citizens today?*

GENERAL DESCRIPTIONS OF MAJOR PROGRAM COMPONENTS AND FEATURES

Sunday Introductory Activities: The week begins with personal and group goal setting in a set of Sunday night activities that engage students in a preview of and preparation for the week. Students will examine different types of citizen action and complete a citizenship self-assessment.

Thematic Memorial and Monument Study Visits: During Instructor-led study visits to the major monuments and memorials of the city, students in workshop groups explore major themes and ongoing developments in the political history of the United States and the role of citizens in shaping those events.

- **Citizen Action on the Tidal Basin (FDR, MLK and Jefferson):** Students will spend the day focusing on political changemakers and the actions they took before reflecting on their own ability to create change. At the FDR Memorial, students will focus on the individual's ability to influence government, while at the MLK Memorial they will focus on the power of people working together in movements. After examining the actions of these various people, they will shift to discuss issues that directly affect young people and will practice building consensus on what to do about those issues.
- **The War Memorials (WWII, Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, Korean War Memorial, and Lincoln Memorial):** Students will take some downtime to explore these great memorials and consider the impact that memorials have on the way we remember events and people.
- **Arlington National Cemetery:** Instructors will lead students to many of the memorials on the cemetery's grounds, including the gravesites of John, Robert and Edward (Ted) Kennedy, Thurgood Marshall and Joe Louis. Students will also witness the Changing of the Guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. At Arlington, students will consider what counts as service to our nation.

Comprehensive Capitol Hill Study Series: Two major program components comprise the students' study of Congress and the legislative process.

- **Walking Workshop on Capitol Hill:** Instructors lead students on a walking workshop of Capitol Hill; students gain an understanding of the legislative process and the role citizens can play in that process. Students will experience Congress in action by visiting the House or Senate chamber, a committee room or a legislative office. Additionally, students will visit other sites that make up the Hill complex, such as the Supreme Court or Library of Congress.
- **Congressional Issues Deliberation:** Instructors lead students through an activity looking at current national issues. Students will deliberate on these issues and consider what issues should be a priority for American lawmakers.

Characteristics of a Good Law Workshop: Students will evaluate several laws using criteria, such as enforceability and justice, to determine what characteristics are common to good laws and to consider the compromises and trade-offs made by lawmakers.

On Display at the Smithsonians: Students will have time to independently explore exhibits at the American History of the Smithsonian museum.

White House and Black Lives Matter Plaza Visit: Students will think about various protests and movements that have used the White House as a symbol of power or as a target throughout history as one of their final sites in DC.

Reflection Workshop: Students will reflect on their learning over the program and will answer the question: What can young people do to take part in American democracy? Students will review various profiles of youth activists. They will then create their own citizen action goals to enhance their level of democratic engagement when they return home.

CLOSE UP MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM - WASHINGTON, D.C. + WILLIAMSBURG



Sunday

Arrive in Washington, D.C.

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?

*Student tuition includes all meals beginning with dinner on arrival day and ending with lunch on departure day.

**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.

Sample schedule subject to change.



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

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

Smithsonian National Museum of American History

Explore history and culture at this world-renowned museum

Dinner at Pentagon City Mall

Workshop: Characteristics of a Good Law

Consider the challenges of creating laws



Tuesday

Congressional Deliberation

Examine pressing national issues and deliberate on policy options

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Study Visit

What current issues will have the greatest impact on your generation?

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

White House Study Visit

Discuss the role of the executive branch as you walk through the president's neighborhood

Dinner at a Local D.C. Restaurant

Evening Monuments on the National Mall

Visit the illuminated WWII, Korean War Veterans, Vietnam Veterans, and Lincoln Memorials



Wednesday

Depart for Williamsburg, Va.

Williamsburg Study Visit

Immerse yourself in Virginia's colonial history and learn about 18th-century life through explorations led by Williamsburg's historical interpreters

Lunch

Colonial Williamsburg Historical Exploration

Walk in the footsteps of Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, and George Wythe

Visit the Capitol—the seat of Colonial Virginia's power

Sit in the pews of Bruton Parish Church, where George Washington worshipped

Discover the crafts of Colonial America with visits to trade shops like the apothecary and blacksmith

Dinner in Williamsburg

Depart for Washington, D.C.



Thursday

Workshop: Citizenship Send-Off

Set goals and identify ways 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

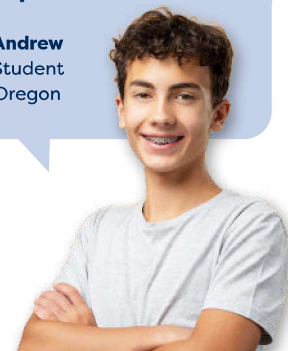
The National Mall

Depart for Home

”

Close Up was the greatest experience of my life! I will never forget the amazing time and the wonderful people I met!

— Andrew
Student
Oregon



WASHINGTON D.C. & COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG

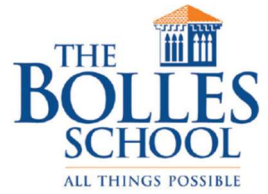
Travel Dates: Sunday 2/28/27 - Thursday 3/4/27

Trip Cost: \$2180

Please contact the following faculty with any questions:

Michael Stephens, StephensM@bolles.org

Allison Chandler, ChandlerA@bolles.org



Bolles Official Use Only

Do not type/write in this space

Date Received: _____

Signatures: _____

Forms: _____

Paragraph: _____

Payment: _____

M/F _____

GL _____

Student Information (include information as it would appear on plane ticket)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year): _____

Current Grade Level: _____

Street Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Student Email: _____

Parental/Guardian Information (Please circle preferred point of contact)

Name: _____

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Travel Experience

Please list any previous travel experience(s):

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Custom Travel Program Acknowledgement Form

Dear Bolles Parents and Guardians,

Your child is applying to participate in a unique program that has been specifically designed by Close Up Foundation to Washington D.C. and Colonial Williamsburg. In order to activate your travel application you must submit the following to Mr. Stephens, the lead chaperone: the application, a non-refundable deposit of \$500 (which will be returned if student is not selected), and the student paragraph. Parents and students, please carefully read the policies below and sign and date the form below acknowledging that you fully understand all the policies mentioned on this form and in the travel application.

The Application Process: When we process applications, we consider (among other things) interest shown in the subject related to the program and feedback from faculty and advisors. Furthermore, to be eligible for Bolles travel experiences, applicants must not have any major disciplinary infractions in the calendar year before travel. Violations of School policy to the one-year mark will be handled on a case-by-case basis. The list of finalists selected will be sent to the Dean's Office a second time for clearance one month prior to travel. Should you have any questions about the selection process, please feel free to contact Allison Chandler.

***Please note that if a student is not accepted into the program, your travel deposit will be refunded.**

Cost of the Trip: The Washington D.C. & Colonial Williamsburg program fee is based on factors such as group size, itinerary, travel dates and flight arrangements.

Payment: I understand that the price for this custom program is based on group size, itinerary, travel dates and flight arrangements. I acknowledge that if I cancel my child's participation, my \$500 deposit is non-refundable and that additional cancellation charges may apply based on the date of my cancellation. I understand that the airline will determine the refund policy for the airline ticket, and that there may be additional costs that are non-refundable depending upon the size of the group and the date of the cancellation. I understand that no refunds can be made for cancellations postmarked later than **12/10/26**. The deposit is paid via check to **The Bolles School**. The remaining payments are made online to Close Up Foundation.

**Travel deviations are not permitted for this program.

**I understand that a 10% late fee will be added to all payments not received in accordance with the dates listed below.

October 2 - \$500 Deposit to The Bolles School

December 10 - Final Balance Due to Close Up Foundation

Refund Policy: Because of the special nature of a custom program and the importance of maintaining the group size, cancellation fees may apply. The airline will determine the refund policy for the airline ticket, and any additional fees may not be refundable depending on the group size. In the unfortunate case that a student should need to withdraw from the program at any time, a letter of cancellation must be given to Allison Chandler.

Participation: I am aware of, and approve of, my son/daughter/ward's decision to apply for participation in the Washington DC & Colonial Williamsburg Program. I am aware that his/her participation in this program is contingent upon acceptance into the program according to the established selection process. My child is also aware that his or her participation in this program is contingent upon acceptance into the program according to the established selection process.

Please sign and date below to acknowledge that you fully understand all policies above.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Application and registration deposit are all due to Michael Stephens by October 2.