

The Need For Civic Education

A healthy democracy requires the informed participation of its citizens, but studies show that many Americans today are disillusioned and disaffected with government and politics. The statistics regarding youth involvement are particularly alarming: a record-low 25.9 percent of college freshmen believe that “keeping up to date with political affairs” is an essential life goal (UCLA, January 1998). Clearly, many of America’s young people are not being properly prepared for active participation in our democracy.

Close Up’s Response

The Close Up Foundation provides a comprehensive response to these civic learning needs, through state, and local government studies programs.

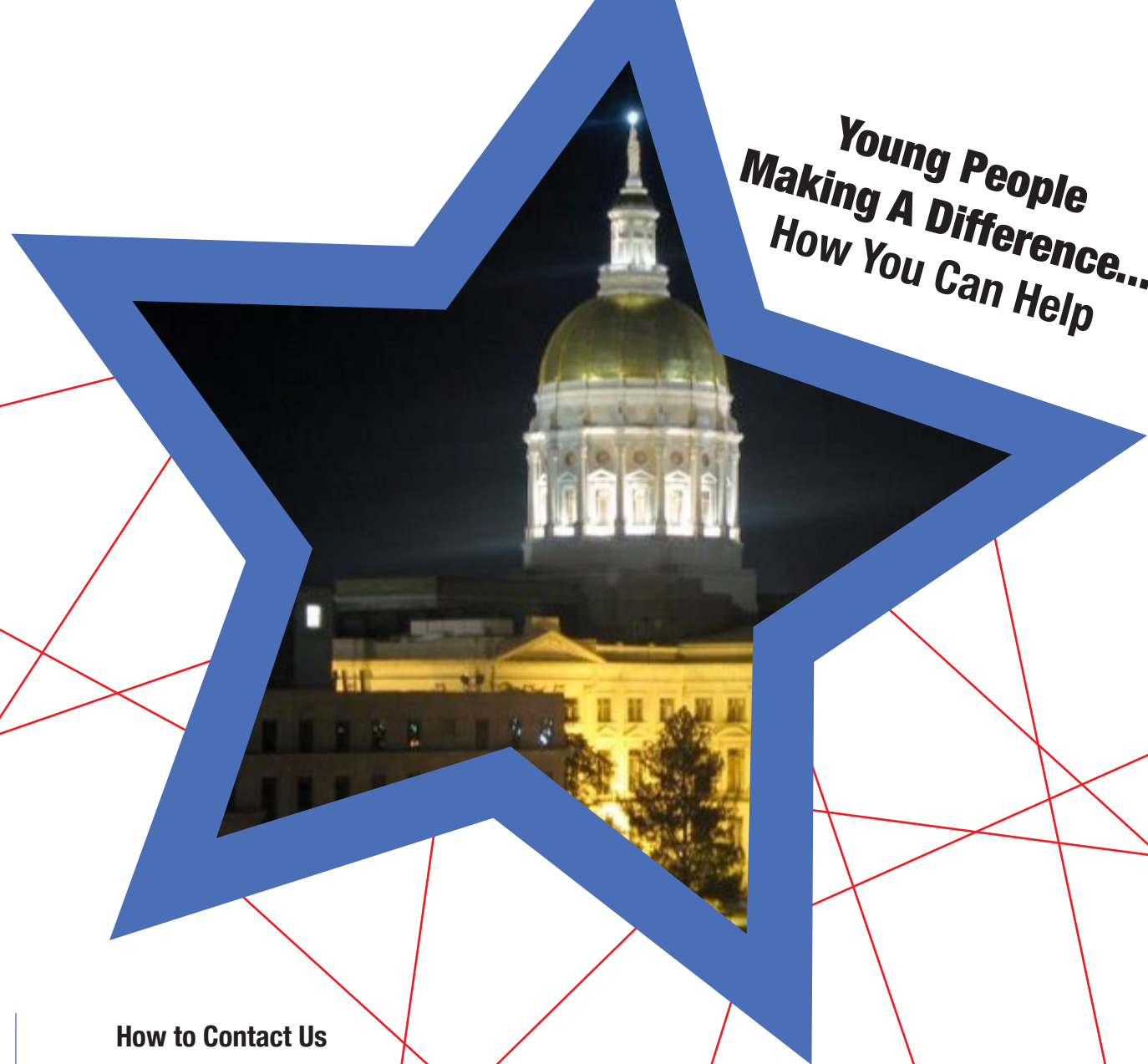


In 1971, Close Up began a unique government studies program in Washington, D.C., for high school students and teachers. The objective was to provide students with the opportunity to experience firsthand the people, the processes, and the issues that drive our democracy.

We must never forget how important it is for us to get involved. Young people have the power to make things happen. The encounters and experiences you have here must not be short lived. Get involved with your family, your school and your community. One person can make a big difference.

Georgia Close Up

Georgia Close Up started several years ago. We are sponsored by the national Close Up Foundation in Washington, D.C. We have annual conferences at the state capitol.



**Young People
Making A Difference...
How You Can Help**

How to Contact Us

Georgia Close Up Foundation

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GEORGIA
CLOSE UP[®]
FOUNDATION

What does a volunteer do?

The majority of our volunteers assist the day of the conference in three main capacities: Administration Volunteer, Workshop Leader or Topical Leader. An Administration Volunteer helps us to check-in the students when they arrive, coordinate lunch, help shuttle students from the different buildings and classrooms, and generally assists with behind-the-scenes activities. A Workshop Leader has a class of students, ranging in size from 10 - 20 and they lead a discussion on various topics pertaining to the conference. The Workshop Leader has the flexibility to choose discussion topics that interest him/her and to allow the students to take the discussion where they would like. The Topical Leader also has a class of students ranging in size from 15 - 25 and leads a seminar on a specific issue pertaining to the conference. This is much more structured than the Workshops and while topicals do contain discussion, the discussion is centralized around a presented topic.

In addition to day-of volunteers, we are always looking for volunteers to help us year-round in many capacities:



- Grant Writing
- Speaker/Presenter Coordinator
- Website Administrator
- Hotel/Facility Coordinator
- Curriculum Coordinator

- Resources and Materials Development Coordinator
- Public Relations Coordinator

What are the Benefits?

Some of the benefits include building leadership and public speaking skills, learning about non-profit management, working with youth, receiving mentoring from the staff, interns and other volunteers, the opportunity to give back to the local community, and ability to encourage others to seek out information and engage them in the pertinent issues affecting them today.

Volunteering Opportunities

"Enhancing Professional Growth & Personal Enrichment"

Join in the ranks of leaders in a global organization.

Contribute your expertise to help shape the future.

Connect with others of your profession; make new contacts.

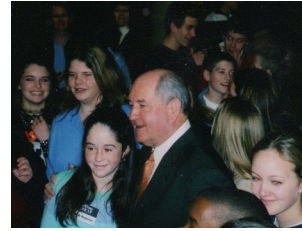
Network with peers, technical experts, business competitors and others.

Contribute your time to your field of interest in a prestigious organization.

Gain valuable management and leadership skills for your career.

Expand your understanding of your chosen profession.

Improve the public perception and image of the community.



Volunteer According to your interests...

There are opportunities for you to:

- Plan meetings
- Chair a committee
- Counsel, mentor students
- Work with finances
- Create/maintain a website

Pick a favorite subject:

- Technical activity, competitions
- Student Activities
- Conferences



Volunteering for the Georgia Close Up Foundation provides a once in a life time experience. This volunteer-driven organization is a resource for civic education, provides educational resources, hosts local activities of technical, professional, educational and social nature, and is a leader in standards development.

Upcoming Conferences:

Middle School Legislative Conference Feb 24 - 26, 2009

This is a complete review of current legislation that affects the lives of young people. Students will meet their legislative representatives of our state government and learn how to lobby for their favorite bills before they are voted on by the General Assembly. This conference is at the GA State Capitol.

High School Legislative Conference March 4 - 6, 2009

This is an intense study of current legislation that affects the lives of young people. They will meet their legislative representatives while learning to lobby for their favorite bills before they are voted on by the General Assembly. Their own personal Representatives will be there to discuss topics of importance.



Youth Health Conference March 11-12, 2009

This conference is held at the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University. This high school level conference will focus on the public and personal health issues that we face today. It will explore the role and responsibility that the CDC has in today's ever-changing public health concerns. This conference includes tours of the Center for Disease Control.

Youth Environmental Conference, March 17-18, 2009

"Sustainable Living for Young People" held at the Georgia Tech Research Institute: This middle school level conference will focus on educating students on the science and debate of global warming. Students will also learn to understand sustainable living, i.e. "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle," water, transportation/fuel, energy and green purchases.