

Close Up: Birth of a Nation

Seventh Grade Parents- Don't miss out on this great opportunity!

What is Close Up?

Close Up is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that was created by a Congressional mandate in 1971. In an effort to educate the nation's youth about our history and government, this organization coordinates trips for high school and junior high kids all across the country. Close Up has served over 700,000 students since its inception, and has been involved with Katy ISD since 1985. **For Katy ISD 7th graders (at 9 of 12 junior high schools), Close Up has developed a FANTASTIC (NEW) trip to: Williamsburg and Alexandria, Virginia; Mt. Vernon (the home of George Washington), Gettysburg (Civil War battlefield); and Philadelphia.** While Katy ISD has participated in the high school Close Up program/trip to Washington DC since 1985, this is a NEW junior high program developed especially for KISD.

*****This is the ONLY school trip of its kind approved by Katy Independent School District.***

When is the trip?

June 13-June 17, 2009. Since the trip is scheduled for the summer, our students will not have to miss school.

What is the purpose of the trip?

The program will focus on the founders of our nation, the struggles to form colonies and a union, and will include elements of our struggles to keep the union alive during the Civil War. Over those five days, the students will be actively involved in travel between locations, group discussions, history lessons, as well as a wide variety of activities developed by the Close Up team. The curriculum focus on the trip will allow students the opportunity to EXPERIENCE the significant historical sites/concepts that they will be studying in 8th grade US History.

Who will be able to attend?

Current 7th grade students (only) who are in good standing with respect to grades and discipline.

Who will sponsor the trip?

Mrs. Pam Robinson is the BDJH teacher sponsor. Mr. Vierling will attend as the administrator. Nine other Katy ISD junior high schools will attend as well, along with their teacher sponsors. When the students are on location, Close Up will provide chaperones and docents that will monitor the students as well as facilitate lessons. The school sponsors (Mrs. Robinson and Mr. V) will assist as well. At night, the students will stay at hotels and will be monitored by the Close Up and school staff. Additionally, Close Up provides 24 hour security for its students.

The Close Up Staff

All of the Close Up staff members have college degrees and are employed by Close Up.

How much does it cost? What does it pay for?

\$1,623 per student. Includes – round-trip airfare from/back to Houston, ground transportation on the program, Close Up-trained instructional staff, hotel accommodations, 3 meals a day, all admission fees, night security & all tips and gratuities. The only items not included in the price are luggage/baggage fees and money for souvenirs.

What should you do next?

If you are interested in the Close Up trip, please contact your student's Texas History teacher, Pam Robinson, or Mr. Vierling (either by email or phone call). We have placed materials on the BDJH website in the Publications and Documents section. We will continue to send out information throughout the first semester.

While the Katy ISD trip, Birth of a Nation, is not yet on the Close Up website, you can visit www.closeup.org for general information about the organization and its history.

Please feel free to call if you have any questions!