

# **Close Up Washington D.C. May 4 to May 10, 2013**

## **Itinerary for the Week**

**Saturday May 4 – Washington D.** - Close Up officially starts at 7:00 PM on Sunday night. We have Saturday, Saturday night, and all day Sunday to explore D.C. on our own. I do think this day and a half makes the Oakridge Program a far more enriching experience. When we arrive Saturday afternoon, we will take the Metro from the airport, we will drop our bags at the hotel and head out to the Adams Morgan neighborhood for lunch. From there we will walk to Dupont Circle. Dupont is a very cool area of D.C. It also serves as a focal point for Washington's embassies. We will roam Dupont. After that, its back to the hotel for a rest. About 10:00 PM we return to the Metro and ride down to the Mall and we walk the monuments - at night. They are lit. They are safe. They are enchanting...its a memorable experience; Washington to Jefferson to FDR to King to Lincoln to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and back to the subway and the hotel sometime long after midnight. Sunday, we get up, eat breakfast and its back to D.C. We will decide as a group what to do, however that choice usually includes the Flea Market at Eastern Market. Eastern Market is an eclectic Capitol Hill Neighborhood that features a Sunday afternoon market complete with music and food and fleas. We'll go. Another interesting experience is the Drum Circle at Malcolm X Park. I've taken kids up there for years...scores of drummers of all ages and nationalities show up in the nice weather and drum together for hours into the late afternoon. People bring kids and dance and play and enjoy. It is one dynamic experience. Then its back to Dupont - or whatever else the group decides. By 5:00 we'll be back at the hotel, cleaned up and ready for our 7:00 PM introductory dinner, with a grand experience of D.C. travel already under our belt. This is our planned itinerary, however we will probably vary off of it throughout the two days of travel. Please advise.

**Close UP Program Monday through Friday** - The Close Up Program is intense and well planned. The week calendar can be accessed at Close UP <http://www.closeup.org/lib/hs-washington-dc-schedule.pdf> encourages teachers to take their students off of program and travel about, in order to enrich that experience. When this occurs teachers pick up their students at a designated spot, take them off of program, and ultimately return them to program at a designated time and place later in the day. I take full advantage of the opportunity. In the past I have offered students and their parents two such choices. Please see below.

**D.C. Kitchen Wednesday May 8** – <http://www.dccentralkitchen.org/#> . The DC Central Kitchen is one of the largest meal preparation centers for the homeless in the world. 5,000 meals are dished out every day and loaded into a fleet of trucks and distributed at little or no cost to 100 nearby homeless shelters, transitional homes, and nonprofit organizations, saving them money and nourishing their clients. People are encouraged to volunteer to help out year round at th Kitchen. The DC Kitchen is located a few blocks from Capitol Hill. On Wednesday morning all Close UP participants metro to Capitol Hill for the day....In the past four years I have taken kids up to DC Kitchen and from 9:00 to noon we volunteer making and packing lunches for the shelters. It's a great experience. They take us

on a tour and feed us. I have reserved volunteer spots for us to work at the Kitchen on Wednesday morning.

### **Earth Conservation Corp – date variable according to program and ECC**

**availability** - <http://www.earthconservationcorps.org/> for the past several years I have taken students (who's parents have provided permission) off of program to visit the ECC. This is a powerful organization whose mission is "to empower our endangered youth to reclaim the Anacostia River, their communities, and their lives." Our history is inspiring. In 1992, a small group of unemployed youth from the Valley Green public housing community in Southeast Washington, D.C., volunteered to change their lives by restoring the Anacostia River. Motivated by the belief that their strong hearts, minds, and muscles could reclaim the Anacostia, America's forgotten river, they banded together under an ambitious name, the Earth Conservation Corps. We go and visit the group. We tour their facilities. We visit the birds. And we take a supervised tour of the river by the Anacostia River Keeper.

**Thursday May 9 Close UP** - the final day of Close Up provides four options for students to choose from. Close Up also encourages individual teachers to take their students with them and explore on their own. In the past I have provided my students three options. One they go with the Close Up group to specific locations. Two they go with me... I usually split time between Arlington National Cemetery, lunch at Ben's Chilli Bowl at the U-Street Metro, and a finish shopping at Georgetown. It's a nice finale to the week. Third I allow students to go to one location (often Holocaust Museum) and then meet up with the rest of us at a specific location to finish off up at Georgetown.

**We fly home on Friday...**