

Close Up Washington D.C. May 4 to May 10, 2019

Itinerary for the Week

Washington D.C. - Close Up begins at 6:00 PM on Sunday night. We have all day Saturday, Saturday night, and Sunday afternoon to explore the city on our own. I do believe that this day and a half makes the Oakridge Program a far more enriching experience.

We fly from Detroit. Saves us \$140 on our flight, actually \$200 from the Close Up cost. This is good. Plus, Detroit Metro is an easy airport. It's a three hour drive from Muskegon; my car leaves the parking lot at 4:15 AM. Looks like we will meet the overnigheters at the airport. Wheels up at 9:00. We arrive in DC Dulles International at 10:30. Our hotel is the [Double Tree Inn](#) in Silver Springs Maryland...a long ways via Metro from Dulles International - you gotta lug your bags so don't bring too many of them.

Rooms at the Double Tree probably won't be available until mid afternoon so we'll drop our bags and head out on the town. Stop #1 - [Adams Morgan](#) - is a trendy D.C. neighborhood - with lots of ethnic food - cheap and/or exotic. Indian, Thai, Ethiopian - sit down at an outdoor cafe or for a couple of bucks at Julia's Empanadas, doesn't matter where you go - good food is everywhere in DC. After roaming Adams Morgan we'll head down the hill to [Dupont Circle](#). Dupont is quaint neighborhood. With the fountain and the park and the coffee shops and the Embassies and every other little thing - its as DC as you can get. We can spend as much time there as we'd like - just chillin. Or move on - your call. Check out the Blendspace that I've created and get to know D.C. Find some stuff that you want to do...

After that, its back to the hotel for a rest. The Double Tree has an indoor pool... you can swim or sleep. About 9:00 PM we return to the Metro and ride down to the Mall and walk the monuments. At night monuments are soft. They are lit. They are safe. They're quiet. There's a certain magic on the Mall at night ...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 after midnight. Your feet will hurt :).

Sunday, we get up, eat breakfast and its back to the streets. 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. 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. Maybe not as [significant as it was in the Sixties](#), it's still pretty cool

6:00 PM - Dinner with your roomies - whatever we decide to do later that afternoon we need to be back at the Hotel for dinner by 6:00. You'll eat and greet all of the folks that you will be living with for the week. You'll be assigned program groups and get to know your program people - students and instructors. Remember kids from all over the place will be at our hotel - Arizona, Rhode Island, California, Dallas, Chicago, Minneapolis, and Oregon. You want diversity...you got diversity! After dinner Close Up holds its first seminar where you move into groups and begin to lay out a plan for the week.

Monday through Thursday - [Close UP Program](#) -The Close Up Program is intense and well planned. A basic weeklong calendar may be accessed at the link above. Students will travel, talk, hangout, and politic with others from around the USA. Rooms are assigned by pairing two Oakridge students with two from another State. If you are a single - you'll be with other singles. Or have your own bed:) Along with your roomies you'll be assigned one of several tour busses that head in and out of the city through out the week. Oakridge students will scatter and then meet up at various points along the way. Back at the hotel, and at various locations, all groups re-unite. Reach out; it's a great way to meet other kids. Seminars and break out sessions, museums and embassies and monuments, you'll be moving from 8:00 AM to ten o'clock every day. Breakfast each morning at the hotel - lunch and dinner on the road. Food is good and the friends are better. We'll be with nearly 120 kids at our hotel; students from all over the USA - And remember nearly half of the kids on Program will be deaf. You'll learn some signing; another Close Up experience.

Two things to look forward to on Program - fill up Wednesday afternoon and evening. After working the Kitchen (below) we spend the afternoon on Capitol Hill meeting with our representatives, and asking about why it costs so much to go college and why the earth is burning up and nobody in D.C. seems to be doing much about. They will no doubt "feel our pain" and avoid a real answer. You will have twenty minutes to talk with representatives or their chief advisors. Don't waste that time. If you are prepared intellectually for the experience it can be an extremely valuable exchange. So come with ideas, with facts, questions, and enthusiasm. We will meet with the offices of Representative [Huizenga](#). Senator [Stabenow](#). Senator [Peters](#). As for the Wednesday night play - this year's presentation is Sheer Madness at the Kennedy Center. The Kennedy Center is extravagant, the view over the Potomac is gorgeous and the play... well, the play is a frolic. It'll be a good time.

Capitol Hill Day is where you bring your khakis and a nice shirt, (ties are optional) or a spring dress - its not prom time on the Hill, however we should be presentable. Special note - the other "dress up" day is the good bye dinner on Thursday night. The Dance afterward is casual...

Off Program Events - In addition to planned events, Close Up encourages teachers to take students off of Program and travel about, in order to enrich that experience. When this occurs teachers pick up their kids at a designated spot, head to the event, and ultimately return to Program at an agreed upon time and place later in the day. I take full advantage of the opportunity.

Wednesday May 8 (- [D.C. Kitchen](#) - 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 the 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. Our little group will get up to the Hill a bit later than most. We'll work the Kitchen from 9:00 to noon making and packing lunches for the shelters. It's a great experience. In addition to working; they take us on a tour and they feed us. I always leave the Kitchen experience with a good feeling in my belly and my soul.

Earth Conservation Corps according to ECC availability - [Earth Conservation Corp](#) - 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.” The history of the ECC 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. Their mission is noble and their work amazing. We go and visit. We tour their facilities. We visit the birds. And we take a supervised tour of the river by the Anacostia River Keeper. Hopefully this year they can squeeze us in...

Thursday May 9 Close UP - the final day of Close Up provides multiple options for students to choose from. You can join your new friends on organized tours or Close Up also allows individual teachers to take their students with them and explore on their own. It's fully up to students. You may go with the Close Up group to specific locations. Or you can come with me... I usually split time between Arlington National Cemetery, lunch at Ben's Chilli Bowl up at U-Street, and finish shopping at Georgetown. That or we start out at the ECC and fill in the gaps.. Either way, with me or Close Up, it's a good way to end the week.

Thursday night, everybody meets back at the hotel for one last group sessions. Get cleaned up for dinner - a group good bye - student speeches and reflections - and a dance. Look good at dinner - dress for dancing, afterwards. And yes, Deaf kids can DANCE!

Friday May 10 we don't fly out til 7:54 PM - so if you want, you can sleep in and hang at the hotel or join me somewhere back on the streets. Your call. I'll be out having morning coffee at some Georgetown cafe. Our flight touches down in G.R. around 9:30 PM. You should be back at the Ridge and tucked into bed about pumpkin time. So...there you go. Close Up is what you make of it. And many kids have made it memorable. It's all on you... :)

Hotel and Flight Info:

HOTEL

Double Tree Hotel
8727 Colesville Rd
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 589 - 5200

FLIGHT OUT - Saturday

Delta Airlines - #3780
Detroit Metro Airport
Leave - 9:00 AM
Arrive - 10:27 AM
confirmation # F9MWAS

FLIGHT HOME - Friday

Delta Airlines - #4153
Dulles International
Leave - 7:54 PM
Arrive - 9:33 PM

OHS to Detroit Metro (3:04). We leave the Oakridge High School parking lot on Saturday May 4 at 4:15 AM. Actually if Mr. Wood could meet with my three foreign exchange students at Turks Restaurant in Nunica, that would save me a drive and gets us on the road twenty minutes earlier. We can talk about it at the meeting. We will return to OHS little after midnight on Friday May 10.

2019 - Blendspace

Please go to this Blendspace Production to find youtube videos of D.C. Neighborhoods and Interviews with past travelers. If you go and watch each of these personal stories you will certainly enrich your travels. And for parents, you'll learn so much more about the experience that awaits your kid.