



About Close Up Foundation:

The Close Up Foundation is the nation's largest nonprofit (501(c)(3)), nonpartisan citizenship education organization. Since its founding in 1970, Close Up has worked to promote responsible and informed participation in the democratic process through a variety of educational programs. Each year, more than 20,000 students, teachers, and other adults take part in Close Up's programs in Washington, D.C. Since the inception of its Washington-based programs in 1971, the Close Up Foundation has welcomed more than 600,000 students, educators, and other adults to the nation's capital.



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About Oakridge Close Up:

My name is Bob Wood. I've been a U.S. History and Government teacher for 28 years, and Washington DC Close Up advisor at Oakridge for the past fifteen. I truly believe Close Up is as good as it gets when it comes to learning and living and understanding government. Close Up is not a sight seeing expedition. It's hard work. Kids learn. They share. They travel, and then they learn some more. Students from all fifty states, and all over the world, including groups from as far away as Micronesia participate each year. So, in addition to exposure to inner workings of the government and the exploration of new and exciting places Oakridge students live, work, and share with all sorts of young people. Students meet with their Michigan elected representatives. They tour governmental buildings - including the Capitol, Smithsonian museums, and Supreme Court. They also visit the monuments. Workshops and seminars highlight everything from the Israeli-Palestinian crisis, to government surveillance in America, to diplomatic studies with visits to various foreign embassies. The trip is filled with all sorts of challenges and opportunities. It's also a lot of fun. Supervision and security is tight. The entire experience is done totally first class. Close-Up is literally a chance of a lifetime.

The final price tag is about \$1300. Kids do fundraisers, collect pop cans, and sponsor dances to raise the fare. Any help would be greatly appreciated. If you belong to a group and you'd like us to present our experiences upon return, we'd love to come in and share.