Civics & Swing States: Let’s Get Out the Vote!

September 23 - October 17, 2020

This upcoming election is arguably the most important election of the lifetimes of young people around the world in relation to racial justice and climate change, and the communities most impacted by it—the same communities most impacted by COVID-19 and by racial injustice. So, let’s get out the vote!

The Civics & Swing States program is a free, 4-week program aimed at inspiring and mobilizing young people to spend time this Fall engaging in the 2020 election. It is developed and led by Jenny Cooper, Director of Environmental Education & Sustainability at The Northwest School (Seattle, WA). While designed with young people in mind, the program is open to all who are interested. Jenny facilitated Civics & Swing States this summer to a group of 65 people, ranging in age from 12-68, and is excited to offer the program for a second time. Please register here.

Participants in the program will:
● Tangibly engage in the 2020 election by volunteering with an election-oriented organization (campaign, voter registration, etc.) of their choosing.
● Meet twice weekly on Zoom to engage in individual and group activities to:
  ○ Develop an understanding of how local/state/federal government and elections work, voter demographics in the US, voter suppression, swing states, and how the 2020 election will impact issues you care about (e.g., racial justice, climate change);
  ○ Have conversations with guest speakers who are elected and appointed government officials, candidates, policy advocates, etc.;
  ○ Explore our personal identities and histories and how they influence our understanding of and engagement in democracy in the US.
  ○ Learn how to be an effective volunteer with an elections-oriented organization.

Expectations
● Participate in your designated cohort time on Wednesdays & Fridays or Thursdays & Saturdays.
● Volunteer 3-5 hours per week for a voter registration organization or campaign on your own. (This could take the form of online engagement, phone calls, or texting, depending on the organization/campaign).
● Participants will need access to a computer, wifi, and phone. If this is a barrier to your participation, please reach out to Jenny Cooper and we’ll work to find a solution.

Logistics
● We will meet twice per week for 60-90 minutes, and participants will choose which cohort group to be a part of:
  ○ Option 1: Wednesdays & Fridays from 8:00am-9:00am PT
  ○ Option 2: Thursdays 5:15pm-6:45pm & Saturdays 10:00am-11:30am PT

Note: If participants would like to participate in the Wednesday session + the Saturday session, they may do so. Please indicate this on the registration form.
● Participants will volunteer independently on their own time or create Zoom cohorts to volunteer alongside.