Welcome to LegiSchool 2019-20

On behalf of LegiSchool, welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! We covered a wide array of topics last year and continued the LegiSchool Civics Institute in Summer 2019. We hope that students and teachers in California are able to partake in all of our learning opportunities that we have to offer this year. All of LegiSchool’s activities and events aim to be rewarding for both the teachers and students, so keep reading to find out our topics for this year and how you can get your school involved!

Once again in the 2019-2020 school year, we will have many opportunities to hear from students and discuss their thoughts on important topics, such as juvenile justice, gun control and California’s role in the upcoming census. In addition, we will continue to host our increasingly popular annual contests: the essay contest, the editorial cartoon contest and the photo contest. Students participating in the essay contest will be asked to share their thoughts on gun control and what changes they would make. Our popular editorial cartoon contest will once again challenge students to think creatively and critically about important California policy topics that affect them. As always, our photo contest will have students capture California in original and captivating ways, while answering the question, “What does California mean to me?”

Through our town halls, contests and internship, LegiSchool hopes to illustrate how government is relevant to young people, and encourage the next generation’s commitment to civic life. To learn more about LegiSchool opportunities, read on! Details can also be found on our website.

Calendar at a glance

October 25
Town Hall Meeting: Gender Equality

November 22
Essay Contest Deadline

December 6
Town Hall Meeting: Juvenile Justice

February 21
Town Hall Meeting: 2020 Census

March 11
Legislative Summit
**For essay contest winners only

March 13
Editorial Cartoon Contest Deadline

April 24
Application deadline for the LegiSchool Civics Institute

May 8
Photo Contest Deadline
2019-20 Town Hall Meetings

Gender Equality
October 25, Sacramento

In this Town Hall, students will discuss gender representation and the different ways that culture and mainstream media can play a part in the under representation of women in positions of leadership and influence. Students will have the opportunity to communicate with leaders in state government and key community members. How can an individual limit possible gender stereotypes? How can one address social injustices in our community? Students will take a deep-dive into these topics and more during the Town Hall on Gender Equality.

Juvenile Justice
December 6, Sacramento

What does the word “fair” mean to you? Where did the concept of fairness come from? In the juvenile justice system, does the punishment fit the crime? What is your opinion on the current approach to juvenile justice? Are there aspects of the model that you agree or disagree with? At this event, students and teachers will have an opportunity to learn more about the juvenile justice system in California and the innovative changes happening within the judicial branch.

2020 Census
February 21, Sacramento

In April 2020, the United States will collect critically important data for the 2020 Census. This once-a-decade data helps businesses, researchers, and communities make important decisions. The census data can help inform what communities need a new fire departments, new roads, or more funding for schools. The census tells the federal government more than just the population, it produces important statistics about the demographics in our community. Electoral districts are also adjusted or redrawn according to the data, something that our state government is in charge of. In this Town Hall, students will learn the importance of the census and how they can get involved.

How to attend a Town Hall!

LegiSchool frequently invites small groups and classes from around California to participate in our Town Hall Meetings. Limited travel money is available from LegiSchool to reimburse school and district costs. If you are interested in bringing your students for a day of learning at the Capitol, please contact LegiSchool at 916-278-4487 or rotce.hernandez@csus.edu. If there is a particular meeting you are interested in attending, please indicate so when you contact us.

Photo Credit: Brianne Mikkelson, SAVA High School
CONTEST CORNER

ESSAY CONTEST

Deaths as a result of gun violence continue to rise. What is your stance on gun control in the wake of so many recent mass shootings? What is your solution on how to decrease the number of gun related deaths? Are new gun control laws even necessary?

All current 11th and 12th graders are invited to cook up an idea and submit their essay response to our annual LegiSchool Essay Contest! Selected winners will be chosen to participate in the Legislative Summit at the State Capitol, where they will be able to share their thoughts and ideas with policymakers. Complete details will be available in September. For more information please email rotcenherandez@csus.edu

POSTMARK DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 22, 2019
LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT: MARCH 11, 2020

EDITORIAL CARTOON CONTEST

LegiSchool will once again host our editorial cartoon contest. Cartoonists use symbols, metaphors, caricatures and more to explore complex subjects in interesting ways. In this contest, we invite students to express their thoughts by creating an original editorial cartoon. Cash prizes are awarded to winners and runners up. Complete details available January 2020.

POSTMARK DEADLINE: MARCH 13, 2020

PHOTO CONTEST

Join students from around the state and participate in our most popular contest! Step behind the camera lens and capture a quintessential California picture to show us how you envision this state. Let us see California through your eyes and you can win a cash prize!

Complete details available Spring 2020. DEADLINE: MAY 8, 2020

Stay up to date!

Keep informed on all the LegiSchool happenings by following our blog. The blog provides background information and an insider’s glimpse of all of our civic education opportunities. Experience what our contests, Town Halls, and internship are like by catching our latest blog post.

Please visit csus.edu/center/center-california-studies/legischool-project for all contest details

Photo Credit: Izabella Preston, South Tahoe High School
LEGISCHOOL CIVICS INSTITUTE

The LegiSchool Civics Institute gives high school students the opportunity to experience state government first-hand and meet the people that work for our state! During their time in the Institute, students will have a chance to learn about every branch of state government while developing professional skills that will serve them well both now and in the future. Students will spend time attending professional workshops and panels, touring state buildings, participating in mock hearings, and interacting with California’s court system.

Students will be selected from high schools in the Sacramento area and spend three weeks in the LegiSchool Civics Institute. A stipend of $400 will be provided at the end of the program to assist with transportation, parking and meal expenses. Want more information about what you will experience in the LegiSchool Civics Institute? Check out the photo gallery on our blog.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 24, 2020