

## **Civics Academy 2 (Climate)**

Alaska Civics Academy is a program dedicated to teaching civic literacy with educational content on the foundations of our government and the role of advocacy and activism in each level and branch. This comprehensive program is led by renowned organizations such as Alaskans Take A Stand, Stand Up Alaska, Native Movement, ACLU Alaska, AKPIRG and Anchorage Youth Votes. With this lineup of experienced leaders, participants can be assured that they will receive quality instruction on all facets of civics. Participants will gain a strong understanding of government at the federal, state and local levels as well as how to effectively engage in advocacy and activism for change. Through this program, students will discover their own potential to create meaningful social impact in their communities. Our goal: to train 20 individual per class.

### What We Commit to Achieving:

At the end of Alaska Civics Academy, we are committed to having students leave with a strong understanding of government at the federal, state and local levels as well as how to effectively engage in advocacy and activism. Through this program, students will gain experience in how to identify challenges that require policy intervention, research for resources and evidence-based solutions and become an effective advocate for their cause. We also intend for participants to develop a sense of civic responsibility by giving back to their local community.

### Evidence of Success:

We will measure our success through surveys taken before and after each course module. Surveys will track changes in knowledge, attitude, behaviors related to civics and a sense of civic responsibility. We will also measure success through student feedback and evaluations throughout the course as well as alumni testimonies. Finally, we are committed to tracking our program's impact on participation in activism and advocacy initiatives across Alaska.

### Timeline:

The first Alaska Civics Academy is planned to run from April 2023- July 2023, in three units with each individual unit running for 6 weeks. Our program ends with an opportunity for participants to travel with Alaskans Take a Stand to the Center for Popular Democracy People's Convention in Philadelphia, PA, in July 2023.

### Structure:

The Alaska Civics Academy aims to educate and empower the community on critical issues affecting society. The Academy is structured around online classes that are held every other Saturday via Zoom. These classes will be taught by subject matter experts and facilitated by trainers that specialize in diversity, inclusion and equity.

To increase community involvement, activities have been planned on the off weeks between classes. These activities will include opportunities for students to testify at Assembly meetings, meet with political leaders, and engage in other community-building events. The goal is to create a supportive environment where students can feel comfortable and empowered to take action.

Each Academy will have a theme, with the first one focusing on Police Reform/Accountability. Students will learn about the history of policing in Alaska, current issues surrounding police accountability, and potential solutions for reform. The second planned academy will be on Climate Justice, where students will explore the impact of climate change on the region and learn how they can contribute to environmental sustainability.

The program has been designed in a plug-and-play format, which means it can be adapted to fit the needs of different communities and regions. The organizers are currently in talks with an organization in Florida to launch a similar academy there, which will help promote grassroots activism and civic engagement across the country.