



Essential Curriculum Social Science: Global Youth Institute

Course Description: The Global Youth Institute brings together students from different countries to study, debate, and propose solutions to significant global issues challenging the world today. This program of study provides an opportunity for students from around the world to investigate the following topics: cross-cultural communication; family customs, traditions and celebrations; international political, economic and social issues; international organizations; conflict resolution; and global environmental issues. During the day Global Youth Institute participants contribute to investigations, engage in dialogue, and hear classroom presentations by invited resource personnel. Field trips to near-by locations related to the curricular topics are part of the program.

The setting of the Global Youth Institute alternates yearly between Des Moines, Iowa and sites hosted by Friendship Force Clubs in other parts of the world. Students participate in social and cultural activities with their host families and/or other students attending the Global Youth Institute.

The Global Youth Institute is a three-week program. One week of the Institute is held at a retreat. Local families host international students for the other two weeks of the program.

Grade Level: 10-12

Course Credit: One-quarter unit of credit

Educational materials vary according to the staff and lessons developed from year to year.

Essential Objectives:

The student will:

1. understand how peoples, nations, events, and the environment are linked around the globe.
2. understand the interdependence of social, economic, and governmental systems.
3. respect and practice tolerance of other people's beliefs and ways of life and learn how to resolve conflicts in a constructive way.
4. investigate the impact of human beings on the environment and analyze various options for dealing with global environmental issues.
5. compare and contrast various aspects of social customs, traditions, and religions in different cultures.
6. investigate various social, economic, and political issues challenging different countries and how various political and social organizations are responding to those challenges.
7. organize and write personal reflections on the topics discussed during the lessons.
8. prepare and present resolutions, which address issues of global consequence for an Assembly of Nations.
9. debate resolutions and think creatively about how to generate a consensus for how people in various nations should deal with these issues.
10. create an artistic form, which represents responsible individual contributions to creating global peace and understanding.