



## KidUnity's Iowa Caucuses Program 2024

Headline: A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience the 2024 Iowa Caucuses as student journalists.

A bit more detail: When the entire nation focuses on the Iowa Caucuses in January 2024, KidUnity's student journalists will be at the center of the political process and spectacle. Our Iowa Caucuses program will allow a select group of high school students to engage with the 2024 election process through the newsroom that we will create in Des Moines. Led by a team of seasoned educators, consultants, and journalists, our students will conduct interviews, observe the caucuses, and produce stories, photo essays, videos, and social media feeds about the election. KidUnity attended the 2016 & 2020 Iowa Caucuses with student journalists.

The program will begin in November 2023 with two team-building workshops and culminate with a trip to the Iowa Caucuses from January 13, 2024 to January 16, 2024. The total cost of the program is \$2,100 per student. This price includes the workshops, travel, lodging, meals and snacks. Need-based financial assistance is available to eligible students.

Students will be part of a news team of high school students in grades 11 - 12. (Trip size will be limited to 24 students).

### Who Should Apply to Join KidUnity's Team of Student Reporters?

KidUnity's Iowa Caucus Program is designed for students who have a strong academic record and interest in civics and/or student journalism.

### What's the application process?

Interested students should complete the application form which includes short essays and contact info for a teacher reference to [iowa@kidunity.us](mailto:iowa@kidunity.us) by **SEPTEMBER 29, 2023**.

### When does the fun begin? What are the important dates?

KidUnity will hold two mandatory pre-trip workshops. These will be a fun, interactive way for students to discuss the candidates and issues, and build the news team. Workshops will be held on the westside of LA, and a light dinner will be served. Workshops are tentatively scheduled for:

- [Sunday, November 26th, 4:00 - 5:30](#) (location tbd)
- [Sunday, January 7th, 4:00 - 5:30](#) (location tbd)

KidUnity will travel to Iowa on Saturday, January 13 and return Tuesday, January 16. Students will be responsible for notifying their schools and teachers regarding their planned absence and completing any missed assignments.

#### What will a typical day in Iowa look like?

KidUnity reporters will begin the day by digesting the morning's news (along with a solid midwestern breakfast) - perhaps at a local diner. The students will establish an agenda for the day after checking in with our team of advisors and review the candidates' schedules for that day. The students will have the ability to operate in small groups as they chase the day's top news stories. At the end of each day, the students will file their team's stories and reports. Students will also be reporting on social media throughout the day.

Our teams will visit campaign headquarters, meet campaign staff and hear about strategy and policy positions, meet candidates, meet local and national journalists (tv/print/bloggers), meet local civic leaders and representatives from the Iowa Republican and Democratic parties, participate in some door-to-door/face-to-face campaigning, observe the caucuses in action, and be present at campaign headquarters on caucus night to watch the caucus results live!

#### What are the Travel Details?

We depart LAX for Des Moines on Saturday January 13 on American Airlines #1998 (meet at airport at 7:00 am; depart 9:30 am).

We return Des Moines to LAX on Tuesday, January 16 on American Airlines #1286 (depart 11:54am; arrive LAX 4:23 pm).

We will be based in Des Moines at the Embassy Suites Downtown and will travel to events by van and/or taxi.

Faculty will include KidUnity Directors David Snow and Dr. Peter Sheehy (also a Harvard-Westlake history/government teacher), Larry Klien (a Harvard-Westlake history/social studies teacher and Founding Director of the Kutler Center of Interdisciplinary Studies), Marc Adelman (KidUnity's political consultant), and Dr. Danielle McGuire (civil rights historian).

Peter, David, Marc, & Danielle all attended the 2016 and 2020 Iowa Caucuses with KidUnity.

#### Where can I learn more about KidUnity?

KidUnity started as a series of conversations between two dads (Peter Sheehy and David Snow) about the need for fun, high-quality, and readily-available service learning and civic leadership programs. Exhaustive conversations and research, combined with their respective backgrounds as educator and non-profit executive, resulted in forming a 501(c)(3) non-profit where our mission is to engage students in their community. For more info about KidUnity and highlights from our 2016 & 2020 Iowa Caucus Program, please visit [www.kidunity.us](http://www.kidunity.us).