



# CONGRESSIONAL CLASSROOM

## Application Process

**1. NOVEMBER 19, 2009- Student Parent Consent Form** due stating:

- Agreement to attend the three mandatory dates

**AND**

- Confirmation that the student lives in the 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (Go to [www.house.gov/writerep](http://www.house.gov/writerep) to verify district).

**Mandatory Dates:**

Interviews - Thursday, January 21, 2010

Orientation- Saturday, March 6, 2010

Washington, D.C.- March 23-27, 2010

**2. 11/30/09-12/4/09-** Campaign Week - Flyers, posters, etc. *See Mr. Fryzel for approval for posters.*

**3. DECEMBER 4, 2009-** Election Day - The junior class will vote during lunches

**4. DECEMBER 11, 2009-** Top 3 Votes will complete the Application due to Mrs. Plankenhorn 12/11/09 by 2 p.m.

**5. JANUARY 21, 2010-** Interview - 3 applicants will interview, and 1 will be selected to represent Ridge Community High School.

**Young Patriots' Foundation  
Congressional Classroom**

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**PARENT/GUARDIAN AGREEMENT FORM**

*PARENT/GUARDIAN: PLEASE READ THIS IN ITS ENTIRETY BEFORE SIGNING.*

- **WINNER MUST PROVIDE PROOF OF MEDICAL INSURANCE PRIOR TO ORIENTATION.**
- **WINNER MUST BE A PERMANENT RESIDENT OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.**

If you are not sure of your Congressional District, you can go to [www.house.gov/writerep](http://www.house.gov/writerep) or contact your county Supervisor of Elections office for confirmation.

- **COORDINATORS KNOW THAT OUTSTANDING STUDENTS SOMETIMES HAVE OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT CONFLICT WITH THE DATES AND TIMES OF THE INTERVIEW, ORIENTATION AND TRIP. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONGRESSIONAL CLASSROOM PROGRAM, IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE STUDENT:**
  1. To attend the interview at the appointed time.
  2. To attend the orientation accompanied by a parent or guardian.
  3. To reserve time for departure from and return to the airport.
  4. To obey all rules regarding safety, dress and behavior.

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We agree to keep the dates listed above for the interview, orientation and trip, available in order to ensure my student's full participation in each portion of the Congressional Classroom Program. We further understand that no special arrangements will be made to accommodate different arrival/departure dates, interview opportunities or orientation sessions.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
2<sup>nd</sup> Parent/Guardian (optional)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student

***(Note: Application will not be considered without the Parent/Guardian Agreement Form completed.)***



## Please Keep This Page For Future Reference

### REQUIRED PROGRAM DATES

#### INTERVIEWS – THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2010

Interviews for up to 3 students from your high school

(Location: City Hall, Lakeland, FL, appointments from 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.)

#### ORIENTATION – SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2010

Attendance is mandatory for participant & parent(s)/guardian

(Location: TBA, 10 a.m. - noon)

#### WASHINGTON, D.C. – MARCH 23 – 27, 2010

The interview process for the Congressional Classroom Program is non-partisan and anonymous. All candidates are individually interviewed by a panel of judges composed of business and community members residing in the 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Decisions made by the independent panel of judges regarding candidate selection is considered final. Candidates are judged on poise and leadership qualities, as well as knowledge of history, government, and the essay.

All government and history questions are taken from Congressman Putnam's website, [www.adamputnam.house.gov](http://www.adamputnam.house.gov) (pay special attention to Congressman Putnam's biography), and Ben's Guide to Government, <http://bensguide.gpo.gov> (Grades 9-12 section). Tie breaker questions are asked of each candidate, but these questions are only considered when candidate scores are equal in total. Below are a list of sample questions which will be *similar* to the questions that will be asked on the day of the interview.

Candidates' essays will be evaluated for writing ability, neatness, reason for applying, and overall impression. Judges will also consider a candidates appearance (professional dress), leadership qualities, ability to articulate, self-confidence, and poise. Candidates should be prepared to discuss community involvement, school activities, travel experiences, and other related subjects. Interviews are conducted in a conversational manner. Candidates without prior interview experience may wish to practice interviewing with a partner.

### **Sample** Congressional Classroom Interview Questions

1. Can you name the U.S. Senators from the state of Florida?
2. What position did Congressman Putnam hold prior to running for Congress?
3. How many representatives represent you in the U.S. House of Representatives?
4. What cable television system broadcasts the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate in session?
5. What new U.S. Department was created in response to 9/11 and is focused on protecting the American people and their homeland?
6. Who would become president should the President and the Vice-President die?
7. Who was appointed in 2006 to serve as a Supreme Court Justice?
8. What are the first ten amendments to the Constitution called?
9. How many times may a U.S. Senator or Representative be re-elected?
10. Who is the commander in chief?

Please contact Cheryl Flood, Congressional Classroom Coordinator,  
at 863/559-4832 or at Clf76@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

**Young Patriots' Foundation**  
**Congressional Classroom Application**

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## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

### **◆ PURPOSE**

Congressional Classroom is a once in a lifetime opportunity for interested and motivated high school juniors to visit their nation's capitol for an insiders view of the democratic process. The students have the opportunity to see "first hand" our Government in action, question government leaders, and tour points of interest in the Capitol area.

### **◆ SELECTION PROCESS**

The guidelines established by the Board of Directors of the Young Patriots' Foundation are similar to those who are seeking election in public office. All interested high school juniors who are permanent, legal residents of the 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Florida must complete an application form provided to the school by the Congressional Classroom Coordinator. A school committee reviews the completed applications for eligibility and eliminates any students who would not qualify for the program due to academic hardship, supervision difficulties, or who are not permanent legal residents residing in the boundaries of the 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. The remaining students campaign for votes and an election is held by the junior class. The three students with the highest number of votes are the candidates eligible to compete for the trip. Any less than three applications submitted by schools for the interview process will be placed in an at-large group. All candidates are individually interviewed by a panel of judges composed of business and community members residing in the 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. **Decisions made by the independent panel of judges regarding candidate selection is considered final.** The candidates are judged on knowledge of history, government, current events, candidate's essay, as well as poise and leadership qualities. Tie-breaker questions are asked of each candidate, but these questions are only considered when candidate scores are equal in total. One student from each of the groups will be selected for the honor of representing their school in the Congressional Classroom of Florida's 12<sup>th</sup> District program. If the selected student is unable to participate due to illness or other emergency, another student will be selected by the Board to participate based on the interview. All candidates will be notified of interview results by letter to the home address listed on the application within one week after the interview. Schools will be notified at the same time.

### **◆ PROGRAM**

Upon selection, students and their parent/guardian are required to attend an orientation meeting where they will receive detailed information about the trip to Washington. Congressional Classroom pays expenses for students and the chaperones who accompany and supervise the trip. Airfare, hotel accommodations, transportation, and meals are included. Money for souvenirs is optional. Arriving early in the week, the students will meet with Congressman Adam Putnam who will serve as their hosts during their stay. Interviews are arranged with key Republican and Democratic leaders of the House and Senate and sessions are scheduled for the opportunity to question members of the President's Administration. Speakers from the private sector and news media personalities are invited to visit with the students. Each year the itinerary varies. Staff members from Congressman Putnam's office give the students daily briefings on what they will be seeing and the issues of the day. Tours of different points of interest are planned, such as the Library of Congress, the Capitol, Supreme Court and various other monuments and museums in our nation's Capitol. Visits are arranged for the students to see the House and Senate in session as well as attend legislative committee meetings of major importance. Congressman Putnam and his staff remain available throughout the week to answer questions and ensure this experience is like no other in affording each participant the chance to see government up-close and first-hand.

*For more information, please contact Cheryl Flood at 863/559-4832.*