



# *The* ARKANSAS DECLARATION *of* LEARNING

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### APPLICATIONS

#### **How do I attend the Arkansas Declaration of Learning program?**

Participants are selected through an application review process. To apply, you must complete an online application that details how this program will enhance your teaching.

#### **When is the application deadline?**

For 2020, applications will open on **January 3, 2020** and close **February 9, 2020** at 11:59 pm CT. Late or incomplete entries will not be considered.

#### **Who is eligible to apply? Do I have to be a history teacher?**

This local program is open to Arkansas 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade teachers of social studies/history, English language arts, any fine/performing arts, and library/media specialists. Gifted & talented, special education, and ESL/ELL educators will also be considered. There are no limitations based on school type (i.e. public, private, or charter).

#### **Can multiple teachers from the same school apply?**

Yes, teachers from the same school can apply to the program; however, educators applying from the same school will be assessed on their individual merit and not as a team.

#### **How are participant selected? How many spaces are available each session?**

The 2020 ADOL program has space for approximately 40 participants. Each applicant is individually assessed by a review panel composed of partner organization representatives using a rubric that looks at teaching methods, growth mindset, civic engagement interest, writing, and diversity of content areas represented in the cohort (mix of social studies, language arts, art, librarians, English Learners, special education, and gifted & talented).

#### **When will I be notified if I have or have not been accepted?**

The 2020 application period closes February 9th at 11:59 PM, and we need time to properly review all applications. Applicants will be notified of their selection by March 18, 2020.

All accepted applicants must confirm their spot and agree to the participant responsibilities within the time indicated on their acceptance email (typically one week).

**I am on the waitlist. How will I know if a spot becomes available?**

Applicants put on the waitlist will be informed individually via email. There is no set time frame – we fill spots from our waitlist as they open and until the session is at max capacity.

**COSTS AND ACCOMMODATIONS**

**Is there a fee to attend the Arkansas Declaration of Learning program?**

There are no payments or fee to participate. In fact, you will earn a stipend for your participation and work building a unit and accompanying lesson plans.

**What expenses does the program cover (meals, travel, lodging)?**

- Meals: We provide breakfast and lunch Monday to Friday for the summer workshop, as well as select dinners.
- Travel: We do not cover travel costs initially, but they can be reimbursed using the stipend. Each individual participant must make their own arrangements to get to and from our downtown location.
- Lodging: Hotel rooms will be provided for participants living 50 miles outside of downtown Little Rock.

**Are there stipends available?**

Yes, dependent on full workshop attendance, participation, and creations of unit plans and a civic engagement project – every participant will receive a stipend. Payments will be made in four installments which are tied to meeting programmatic deadlines.

**I have food allergies/restrictions/am a vegetarian or vegan. What kinds of meals will be served at the summer workshop?**

Once accepted, we reach out to all participants to ask about dietary restrictions and food allergies. We will work with our caterer to provide meals that can accommodate your needs. If your diet is highly restrictive, you may want to pack supplementary food. If concerned, please contact us to discuss further.

**I have a need for a mobility accommodation. Are the accommodations and program accessible?**

We are glad to work with you to ensure accessibility for the on-site programming and off-site trips. The program may include short walks (5-10 minutes) to nearby sites. For any location visits further than a 15-minute walk, we will provide a shuttle bus for the group. If concerned, please contact us to discuss further.

## **EXPECTATIONS**

### **What can I expect at the workshop? How long are the days?**

The *Arkansas Declaration of Learning* summer workshop is structured to provide a mix of activities including lectures, classroom activities, and site visits. Participants will be expected to attend all sessions Monday through Friday (approximately 9 am to 5 pm). Exact timing, sessions, speakers, and tours will not be set until spring 2020.

### **Has this program been done before?**

This will be the sixth year for the *Declaration of Learning* in Arkansas. Both teachers and students have enthusiastically embraced the process, lessons, and experience.

- 100% of the educators reported that their teaching has been transformed through the program and that they plan to incorporate their learning into their future lessons.
- 92% of students reported that the lessons had an impact on their understanding of the importance of civic engagement, and that they were personally motivated to become civically engaged.

### **What are my responsibilities as a participant?**

- At the summer workshop, your responsibility is to be a fully active participant in the activities and discussions. During this time, you will also begin crafting your unit and daily lesson plans connected with chosen objects from the partner collections.
- Within the following school year, you will teach and refine the lesson plans while working towards a civic engagement project with students.
- This will all be assisted by teacher mentors from Arkansas and meetings with partner organization staff.

### **Will my unit or lesson plan be placed on a website?**

There is an opportunity for website publication on one of the partner sites, but this is not a guarantee.

## **OTHER**

### **Do you offer graduate credits or state certificated PD credits?**

30 hours of professional development credit will be awarded by the Arkansas Department of Education's Division of Elementary and Secondary Education upon completion of the summer workshop.