



## **ACTION: Active Civics To Inspire Our Nation Spring 2015 Class**

**Morven Park's Center for Civic Impact invites high school students in Northern Virginia to take part in an exciting program called ACTION: Active Civics To Inspire Our Nation.**

Through leadership training and civic impact projects, young leaders will learn the skills to create meaningful change in their community and government.

ACTION students are challenged to address current problems in their community or state by creating proposals for public policy. Throughout the program, ACTION students practice important skills like issue investigation, civil deliberation, persuasive writing, and public speaking. Fellows leave the program empowered and prepared to make a difference.

The ACTION program takes place over two semesters. In the first semester students participate in ten learning sessions at Morven Park to work on skill building and policy proposal development (dates are listed below). During the following semester, students gain real leadership experience by choosing either to take steps to move their policy proposal forward or create their own civic engagement initiative, with guidance from Morven Park's civic education team.

**Join this exciting program and develop your civic leadership skills!**

**Applications for the ACTION Spring 2015 class are due by January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 5:00pm. To apply send the completed form to: Abby Pfisterer, Morven Park Director of Civics Education, [apfisterer@morvenpark.org](mailto:apfisterer@morvenpark.org).**

*Morven Park, a historic site in Leesburg, was the home of former Virginia Governor Westmoreland Davis. From 1903 until 1942 Governor Davis used Morven Park to educate and empower rural citizens to become more active and engaged as members of their community. His legacy continues today through Morven Park's Center for Civic Impact, which teaches youth the skills needed to become responsibly engaged citizens today and throughout their lives. To learn more about Morven Park and its civic education initiative, please visit [www.morvenpark.org](http://www.morvenpark.org).*

(Phone) 703.777.2414 (Fax) 703.777.3282  
P.O. Box 6228 / Leesburg, VA 20178  
[www.morvenpark.org](http://www.morvenpark.org)

# **ACTION: Participant Requirements and Schedule**

## **Participants must:**

- Be a high school student
- Be able to attend most of the Semester One sessions at Morven Park
- Complete and submit the ACTION program application by January 16, 2015

Participant selections will be announced January 23, 2015.

## **Semester One – Policy Proposal and Skill Building**

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<i><b>Session #</b></i>	<i><b>Date</b></i>	<i><b>Topic</b></i>
1	February 11	Civic Responsibility
2	February 18	Citizen Identity
3	February 25	Community Concerns & The Public Agenda
4	March 4	Investigative Research Part 1
5	March 11	Investigative Research Part 2
6	March 18	Underlying Causes
7	March 25	Big Ideas and Real Solutions
8	April 8	Building the Policy Proposal
9	April 15	Policy Feedback and Revision
10	April 22	Take ACTION

***All sessions run from 6:30pm until 8:00pm at Morven Park's Coach House.***

***Please note that sessions will not be held during LCPS spring break (March 30 – April 3).***

## **Semester Two – Real World Civic Impact**

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In the second semester students are challenged create positive change in their community by choosing one of the program paths below. During this part of the program students can attend any of the summer or fall sessions for guidance, feedback, or to help new program participants develop their policy proposals. Summer and fall session dates will be announced in April 2015.

### ***Path A: Policy Proposal Implementation***

Working with elected representatives and community leaders, ACTION students develop and implement a plan to move their policy proposals forward. This path emphasizes advocacy and taking action for the public good.

### ***Path B: Civic Engagement Initiative***

ACTION students work to share the tools, skills, and ideas learned during semester one with their peers or community members by developing their own civic engagement initiative. This path focuses on expanding civic education at a grassroots level.



## **ACTION: Active Civics To Inspire Our Nation**

### **Spring 2015 Application**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Freshman

☐ Sophomore

☐ Junior

☐ Senior

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

What current issues are you most interested in?

Why do you want to participate in ACTION?

#### **Sessions:**

☐ Yes, I will be at all ten spring sessions.

☐ No, I will not be able to be at every session. Circle the dates that you will miss:

February 11

March 4

April 8

February 18

March 11

April 15

February 25

March 18

April 22

March 25

Student signature & date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature & date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian printed name: \_\_\_\_\_