

# INSPIRE



U.S.

## The Inspired Year

### In a nutshell...

Inspire U.S. is a national youth development program that empowers students to improve their communities through civic participation, civil discourse, and community action. Our yearlong program teaches students about the power of the vote in sustaining our democracy. Through voter registration efforts and actionable projects, students gain first-hand experience addressing issues they find most important.

### Inspire U.S. Leadership Academy

The three-day Leadership Academy focuses on leadership development, effective communication, team building, and the importance of civic engagement. After graduating from the Leadership Academy, students will be matched with advisors who will assist and support them throughout the year as they lead projects in their schools. Advisors may be teachers, exceptional college students, Inspire staff, community leaders, and elected officials.

The Inspired Year begins when students graduate from the Leadership Academy. After assessing factors which negatively impact the civic health of their communities, students take the next steps to drive positive and profound change in their communities. With the help of Inspire staff and volunteer advisors, students apply what they learned at the Leadership Academy and transform their inspiration into action. Throughout the Inspired Year, students will engage in the following:

**Voter Registration Projects** – In order to improve the civic health of a community, citizens need to be involved in the electoral process. To this end, students facilitate nonpartisan voter registration projects aimed at reaching peers who are approaching their first opportunity to vote and encourage them to adopt lifelong voting behaviors.

**Campaign/Election Simulation** – During this simulation, students learn about factors which influence campaigns and have opportunities to practice the skills associated with civil discourse and community decision-making.

**Civic Action Projects** – After participating in a guided assessment of issues impacting their schools and communities, students design and facilitate projects aimed at improving civic health by engaging decision-makers and driving policy change.

**Annual Awards Dinner** – At the conclusion of the Inspired Year, students, their parents, educators, and members of the community will gather to celebrate the achievements of the students' Inspired Year.