



2009 CONSTITUTIONAL ACADEMY

*a six-week distance learning program that culminates in
a week-long residential program in Washington, D.C.*

JULY 19-25 | JULY 26-AUGUST 1

MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR



I am delighted about your interest in being a part of the Bill of Rights Institute's *Constitutional Academy*. We have designed this program with students just like you in mind – students with the interest, intelligence, and motivation to explore critical questions about our past and future as Americans.

Our *Constitutional Academy* gives students like you the opportunity to read works by and about the Founders of the American republic and to engage in discussions about the meaning and implications of these works with other bright students. Our faculty will challenge you to understand the ideas of the American Founding as it was understood then, while also emphasizing how these ideas remain relevant today.

Through daily activities outside the classroom, our *Constitutional Academy* reinforces the ongoing conversation between past and future. Visits to cultural landmarks like Mount Vernon and the National Archives make America's past come alive in a way impossible through reading alone. In addition,

we offer several hands-on learning opportunities that encourage you to consider the ongoing importance of what you have learned.

Perhaps most importantly, you have the opportunity to make lasting friendships with your fellow *Constitutional Academy* students, built on the kind of camaraderie that can only come from sharing an intellectual journey.

Finally, the Bill of Rights Institute's *Constitutional Academy* is designed to prepare rising juniors and seniors like you for the transition from high school to college. In fact, you could say that the program gives you a head start on your college career – students who successfully complete the *Constitutional Academy* will be awarded three college credits!

Thank you for your interest in the Bill of Rights Institute's *Constitutional Academy*. I look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Ross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jason" being more prominent than the last name "Ross".

Jason Ross, Director of Student Programs
Bill of Rights Institute

WHY WAIT FOR COLLEGE WHEN YOU CAN EXPERIENCE IT NOW?



“It’s a fun, effective way to learn about American Government and to make new friends.”

–2008 Constitutional Academy Participant

During the Constitutional Academy program, you will:

- ▶ Build new friendships with students from across the country who share your interest in history, civics and personal liberty
- ▶ Work with historical documents at the National Archives
- ▶ Visit local sites of historical and constitutional significance such as Mount Vernon, Monticello, and Gunston Hall
- ▶ Interact with award-winning teachers and accomplished scholars from prestigious universities
- ▶ AND earn **THREE college credits at no additional cost!**

The Bill of Rights Institute’s *Constitutional Academy* gives you the opportunity to jump start your college career—visit www.BillofRightsInstitute.org/Academy and apply today!

THE CONSTITUTIONAL ACADEMY SAMPLE PROGRAM AGENDA

The Constitutional Academy includes an active week in Washington, D.C. From morning to night, you will engage in discussions, explore in and around our nation's capital, and enjoy fun and interesting activities – all while building new friendships with like-minded teens.

SUNDAY

Registration
and Welcome

General
Orientation

Evening Activity:
Washington, D.C.
sightseeing tour

MONDAY

Presentation:
Principles
of American
Independence

Discussion:
Which rights are
most important
to you?

**All day trip to
Monticello:**
Experience
Jefferson's unique
mind through
a visit to his
distinctive home

TUESDAY

Presentation:
A Constitutional
Republic

Discussion:
How "free" is
speech in your
school?

**Off-Site at
Gunston Hall:**
Explore the home
of George Mason,
a leading advocate
of the Bill of
Rights

WEDNESDAY

Presentation:
Private Property
and Citizenship,
Self-Interest, and
Leadership

**Off-Site at
Mount Vernon:**
Visit and
tour George
Washington's
home, learn about
Washington's role
in the crafting of
the Constitution

THURSDAY

Presentation:
The Judiciary, the
Rule of Law, and
Personal Liberty

Discussion:
How far can
the police go?

**Off-site at
National Archives:**
View the Founding
Documents and go
behind-the-scenes
at the Archives

FRIDAY

Presentation:
The Executive,
The Rule of Law,
and Security

Discussion:
Executive
Power and the
Bill of Rights
Throughout
History

Activity:
Mock Supreme
Court Case and
Final Exam

Evening activity:
Semi-formal
dinner and closing
awards reception

*"This program
makes me realize
that I have to be
involved in my
government."*

—2008 CONSTITUTIONAL
ACADEMY PARTICIPANT

READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Students will read approximately 200 pages of writing by and about the leading minds of the American Founding era.

Students will reinforce their knowledge by participating in weekly online chats in the weeks before the Washington, D.C. program begins, where they may post online responses and engage in discussions with fellow participants and program scholars. At the end of their week in Washington, D.C., students will take a final exam and participate in a mock trial.

Finally, students will complete a term paper following the conclusion of the residential portion of the program. Students who successfully complete these requirements will earn three college credits.



ABOUT THE SCHOLARS

Jason Ross, Program Director

Jason Ross is Director of Education Programs for the Bill of Rights Institute. Jason is currently completing his Ph.D. in the Department of Government at Georgetown University, and he earned a Masters Degree in Public Policy from Pepperdine University in 2001. He is the recipient of numerous academic awards and fellowships, including the Richard M. Weaver Fellowship sponsored by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute, the Humane Studies Fellowship sponsored by the Institute for Humane Studies, and the Civitas Fellowship sponsored by the Center for Public Justice. He has published reviews and essays in *The Review of Politics*, *The Journal of Religion and Society*, and *The University Bookman*. Mr. Ross directed the 2008 *Constitutional Academy* as well as the 2007-2008 *Being an American* Essay Contest.



William Rhatican, Master Teacher

William Rhatican is an Adjunct Instructor in American History at Northern Virginia Community College. He recently retired after eight years as a history, government and Advanced Placement Government teacher at West Potomac High School in Fairfax County, Virginia, where he was named “Teacher of the Year” by the students three of the five years they had given the award. He has edited three books on American history and government authored by his students. His own essay on Arthur Lee of Virginia was published in the *Historic Alexandria Quarterly*. Before becoming a teacher, he spent thirty years in and around the national government, having served as a special assistant to two presidents of the United States and as press secretary for three cabinet officers. Mr. Rhatican has been working with The Bill of Rights Institute since 2001.

*“I am more prepared for
my future. Thank you!”*

—2008 *CONSTITUTIONAL
ACADEMY* PARTICIPANT

ABOUT THE BILL OF RIGHTS INSTITUTE

Founded in September 1999, the Bill of Rights Institute is a nonprofit organization committed to educate, motivate, and inspire young people to become informed and active citizens. In addition to creating curricula and conducting professional development programs for teachers, the Bill of Rights Institute also provides free resources and programs just for students like you. Visit www.DoYouHaveTheRight.org for more information.



LOW COST, TREMENDOUS VALUE

Valued at over \$3,000 per student, the cost of the *Constitutional Academy* is only \$1,495! Student tuition for *Constitutional Academy* includes:

- ▶ A full schedule of educational and exciting events, including seminars, lectures, and tours
- ▶ Six nights lodging at the campus of Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia
- ▶ All meals
- ▶ All instructional materials and handouts
- ▶ 24-hour adult supervision and security
- ▶ Transportation between Marymount University and Ronald Reagan National Airport
- ▶ Visits to historic sites, entertainment and admission to special events
- ▶ Semi-formal farewell dinner and closing awards reception
- ▶ And **three college credits** upon successful completion of all requirements at no extra cost!

ELIGIBILITY

You must meet all the following criteria:

- ▶ Attend a public, private, charter, or home school
- ▶ Expect to be in Grade 11 or 12 during the 2009-2010 school year
- ▶ Achieve a GPA of at least 3.2 in all social studies classes (through the Fall 2008 semester)
- ▶ Demonstrate leadership ability and interest in the topic of the seminar

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid is available for qualified participants. Please visit www.BillofRightsInstitute.org/Academy for more information.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Your safety while participating in the *Constitutional Academy* is our number one priority. To ensure that we provide a safe environment, we expect you and your fellow participants to show maturity and use good judgment while participating in our programs. Participants who do not follow the Code of Conduct are subject to expulsion and will be sent home immediately, at their expense, with no tuition refund. Please visit www.BillofRightsInstitute.org/Academy to view the complete Student Code of Conduct.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

HOW TO APPLY

1. Complete and submit the application package available online at www.BillofRightsInstitute.org/Academy.
2. Submit a writing sample—a class essay, term paper, school newspaper article, or another piece of your written work that showcases your writing skills.
3. Have a teacher complete and submit a Student Recommendation Form (available online).
4. Submit written application materials, along with a non-refundable processing fee of \$25 (check payable to the Bill of Rights Institute) to the address below.

DEADLINES

Application Deadline: April 17, 2009. *Applications accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until the deadline.*

50% Deposit Due: within two weeks of acceptance, or send us one payment of \$1,346—a 10% savings!

Final Payment Due: April 30, 2009.



***“My Constitutional
Academy experience will
never be forgotten.”***

*—2008 CONSTITUTIONAL
ACADEMY PARTICIPANT*



CONSTITUTIONAL ACADEMY

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