

# University of 2026

## Curriculum AND PROGRAM INFORMATION

The University of US is an after-school program designed to boost student knowledge of the U. S. Constitution to a higher level. Students will participate in classes led by locally and nationally renowned instructors on topics related to the Constitution. Following the completion of the program, a competitive Constitution Bowl event will be held. Successful completers of the program are eligible to enter the U. S. Constitution Scholarship Foundation's essay competition (11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> grade students only), participate on a Constitution Bowl team (all grades are eligible), receive a Leadership Scholarship (all grades eligible if not an essay winner), and receive other financial awards (all grades). Parents, teachers and school administrators are welcome to attend classes as visitors.

### CLASS SESSIONS AND INSTRUCTORS FOR 2026 INCLUDE:

1. Our American Heritage and Founders of the Constitution – Judge Adrian Soud
2. The Federalist Papers – Howard Pines and Caleb Bryan
3. Articles of the Constitution – Judge James Daniel
4. Amendments to the Constitution – Judge Steven Fahlgren and Secretary of State Cord Byrd
5. Important Supreme Court Justices – Professor Bradford Clark
6. Notable Supreme Court Cases/The Judicial System – Judge Jenny Higginbotham and Attorney Chanda Rogers

**LOCATION** – FSCJ's Nassau Technical Career Center ("Bean" Center), The Nassau Room (T-126).

**ORIENTATION** – An Orientation to the program will be held on September 15, 6:00 – 7:00 PM via Zoom. The login for the program will be sent out the week before the meeting.

**FINAL EXAM** – A test covering class material will be taken on the last day of the class session, March 23, 2026.

**SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY AND APPLICATION** – Information regarding the scholarship essay and application will be distributed in October. Due Date: March 23, 2026

**CONSTITUTION BOWL** – Each public school, private school, and home education may form a team for participation in the Constitution Bowl, a quiz game consisting of teams competing to answer questions about the U. S. Constitution. Winners of the Constitution Bowl will be awarded scholarships: 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$2,000 each student, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$1,000 each student, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$250 each student. To participate on a Constitution Bowl Team, a student must be a graduate of the current year of the U of US Program.

### PROGRAM INFORMATION

- The program will begin in September and will feature sessions on the following dates: September 22, October 27, November 17, January 26, February 23, and March 23, 4:45 – 6:45 PM. To graduate from the program, to be eligible to participate in the scholarship program, and to participate in the Constitution Bowl, a student must attend 5 of the 6 classes.
- The classes feature fascinating local and national speakers, followed by interactive activities among students, speakers, and program staff.
- Snacks and pizza are served at each meeting.
- The USCSF will give two \$10,000 scholarships (\$5,000 for each of two years) and three \$5,000 scholarships this year to students who complete the University of US program and successfully compete in the scholarship contest.
- 2 or more \$1,000 Leadership Scholarships will be awarded.
- Participants in the program will receive their own copies of the Constitution.
- Each student who successfully graduates from the program will be awarded a stipend of \$100.
- Each student who submits a qualifying essay to the scholarship competition will receive \$100.
- Each student who completes the program will receive a certificate of graduation.
- Students may attend multiple years of the program even if they've received a certificate of "graduation." Students may apply for the scholarships in both their junior and senior years, even if they have already been awarded a scholarship during a previous year.