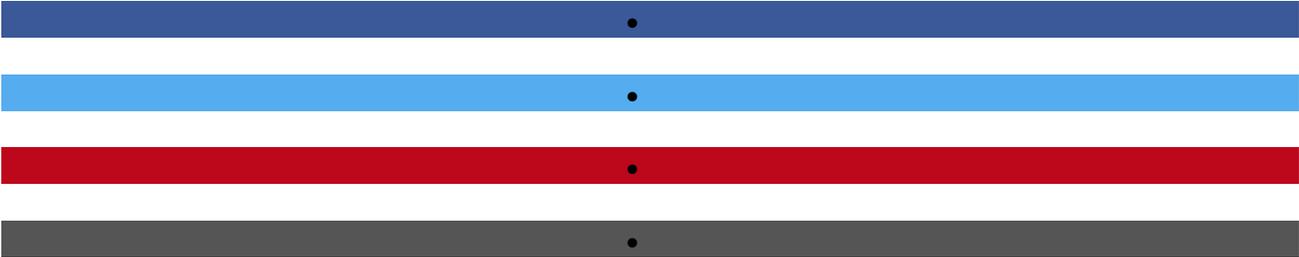


# MLK Freedom Center Youth Civic Engagement Tour with 80 Youth Leaders



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Eighty youth leaders will spend seven weeks this summer visiting more than 30 cities, towns, sovereign Indian Nations meeting with leaders and activists as part of the 2019 “To Us, You Matter” Civic Engagement Tour, the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center has announced.

The delegation will spend an intensive summer of study and action, engaging with communities and developing their leadership skills from June 21 through Aug. 2.

They will critically analyze social conditions and injustices and work together to identify positive solutions through community organization and political action. Selected stops on the Civic Engagement Tour include San Diego, Bakersfield, Fresno, Sacramento, Oakland and the greater Bay Area, Seattle/Tacoma, the Quinault Nation and other communities and destinations.

The 80 high-school-aged participants were nominated by leaders and public servants from the communities they represent (including teachers, principals and elected officials). They share a passion for making a difference.

“Young people will not only grow and experience a personal transformation; they will also inspire hundreds of others who will meet them,” said Freedom Center Executive Director Dr. Roy D. Wilson.

“A vibrant and disciplined dedication to the betterment of a stronger democracy is contagious,” he said. “This tour will uplift and excite individuals from all walks of life.”

The Civic Engagement Tour results in both deep personal transformations for the participations and lasting benefits to communities in the form of heightened civic participation.

While focusing broadly on the vital importance and urgency of civic engagement in our current society, the 2019 tour will explore four themes in depth: water rights, law enforcement accountability, ending child poverty and the need for civics education and participation. Participants on the tour will meet with communities and leaders in California, Washington and Oregon to discuss and learn about the impacts of these issues and how people are organizing to affect community-driven change.

For information, visit [www.mlcfreedomcenter.org](http://www.mlcfreedomcenter.org) .