

BEFORE YOUR FIRST SCHOOL VISIT

In addition to undergoing the training and orientation session, it will be beneficial to take some time to familiarize yourself generally with the historical and civics topics that will be covered over the course of the school year. To that end, take 15-20 minutes to review the Table of Contents and the Chart, which give an overview of how our civics enrichment topics align with the existing world history curriculum. Because an “add-on” activity that has no real connection to the material being taught to students would be unlikely to take root in students’ minds, the A.C.E. lessons are tailored to dovetail with the areas of history being studied during that month in the classroom. Additionally, each A.C.E. lesson contains connections to the modern era and to other historical periods that could be lost if you are not familiar with how the units relate to each other and to the program as a whole. Again, do not worry if your history is rusty; these materials give you all the information you need to enrich the standardized curriculum that has already been studied by your students.

We also encourage you to dedicate some time to getting to know your teaching teammates (the “Legal Team”) and building a relationship with the teacher who heads your class (the “Classroom Teacher”). You will receive your teaching assignments in the near future and contact information for your co-volunteers. Once your Legal Team has been assembled, you will choose a team leader who will serve as a liaison to the A.C.E. Committee, handle logistics, voice concerns to the A.C.E. Committee, and share success stories with other A.C.E. participants.

Building relationships with the School District staff, as well as with your Legal Team, will ensure that everyone is prepared, both logistically and stylistically, to smoothly conduct each month’s enrichment session.

One of the reasons to teach in Legal Teams of 3-5 legal professionals is to minimize the interruption to students and Classroom Teachers when “no-shows” occur. The A.C.E. Program expects you to coordinate with your Legal Team to ensure that sufficient volunteers will be present each month to allow for effective presentation of all the units, including small group sessions and interactive activities.