

FREEDOM SCHOOL FAQ

Who is the camp for and why?

The camp is for 7th and 8th-grade students who live in Collin County. Students must live in Collin County because this is the geographic area the NAACP branch serves.

Although we have certified teachers, we are currently unable to accommodate special needs students. As we expand, we hope to offer space for those students in the future.

Why does the application require a video recording?

1. Assess Passion and Personal Connection

Requiring a video allows us to see each student's authentic voice and personal connection to Black history. We're not just looking for polished answers—we want to understand what moves them, inspires them, and why this subject matters in their own words. This helps us build a program filled with students who are genuinely invested in learning and growing.

2. Encourage Confidence and Communication Skills

Sharing thoughts on camera helps students build confidence, practice self-expression, and prepare for leadership. Black history is full of courageous voices—and we want our students to start using theirs from day one. The video is a first step in empowering them to speak up, tell their stories, and carry this knowledge forward.

3. Uplift Creativity and Equity in Storytelling

Every student's story is valuable, and we want to celebrate a range of voices and lived experiences. By sharing a video, students start the program as storytellers and change agents. It also helps level the playing field—students don't have to be top writers to show us who they are. We're opening the door for creativity, authenticity, and equity right from the start.

What will be taught at the camp and what will you do?

This week-long course aims to introduce middle schoolers to the vibrant tapestry of Black history, highlighting key figures, events, and cultural contributions that have shaped the world. Through engaging activities, discussions, multimedia presentations, and creative projects, students will explore the resilience, achievements, and ongoing legacy of Black individuals and communities. The learning experience will culminate with an optional field trip to see living history and have an immersive experience with their living Black History.

Do I have to be a member of the NAACP to enroll in the camp?

No, but you do need to live in Collin County and meet the age requirements. We invite you to be part of the branch. It's easy. Just follow [this link](#).

When is the camp and how long are the classes?

Sessions are July 27- July 31, 2026. Each day's class will start at 8:30 am and end at 3 pm. Before school or after-school care is not provided. Breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snacks will be served but students are welcome to bring their own lunch.

Where is the school?

Sessions will take place in West Plano. Location will be shared once applications are accepted. There is an (optional) field trip on the last day of school but we hope all students will attend. Details will be shared in the welcome packet during the mandatory orientation.

How much does it cost?

The Freedom School application is required, but the program is free to students. Because of the generous donations of various community partners, Collin County NAACP can remove costs for students and their families. As a result of our tight budget, there will be limited capacity.

We ask that you consult your summer calendar before committing to Freedom School. It would be a terrible waste of resources to hold a spot for a student who will eventually be absent.

Why is it only for 7th and 8th graders, and how many students are in the school?

Hosting a summer program is a big undertaking, and we are dedicated to giving it our best effort. Our 2025 graduating class had 24 students and our 2024 cohort had 25 students. Our goal is to keep the class size small, grow without sacrificing quality and being good stewards of our donation funds. The strategic plans outline an ambitious blueprint to add another grade level next year.

Who is teaching the classes?

Our team comprises dedicated educators, historians, artists, and counselors who are passionate about Black history and youth development. Each staff member is also a member of the Collin County NAACP. All presenters are seasoned professionals in their respective fields with impressive credentials. You will have an opportunity to meet staff and branch leadership at orientation.

Why is teaching Black history so important, and why are you hosting this school?

Tremendous gaps would be left in the plot of the creation of civilization around the world without Black history. The advancement of society across the globe has relied upon and been driven by the significant contributions of Black people, and all children must know that.

Given the current political climate in Texas, the attacks on ethnic studies and the dismantling of DEI initiatives, it's even more urgent to combat the misinformation and revisionist versions of Black history. As one of the oldest civil rights organizations, the NAACP sees it as our responsibility to advocate for and protect the legacy of the Black experience.

How can I support the mission of the Freedom School?

You can support Freedom School by first supporting your student. Take a moment to discuss the course lessons and experiences. Ask them to recount the skills and objectives learned, unpack the impact of the overall themes, and encourage further exploration of topics. Also, inquire about their emotions as they explore and process the Black experience.

You can also help by becoming a member of the branch and volunteering on a committee. Think about an issue you are passionate about, and I'm sure we have a related committee that could use your time and talent. Please ask a school leader for details about getting involved.

To be frank, the programs need funding and support. You can donate to the branch and share your experience with your network. We thank you in advance for your donations and support.