



# CAPITOL EXPERIENCE DAY YEAR-END REVIEW

2022  
2023

# CAPITOL EXPERIENCE DAY

**As one of Civic Nebraska's flagship programs, Capitol Experience Day offers hands-on civic engagement to youth and adults across the state of Nebraska. In this past year, the Capitol Experience Day program served 1,057 participants, more than ever before.**

Capitol Experience Day is designed to teach critical thinking, civil discourse, and the governing process through interactive programs and presentations. This daylong deep dive is convened entirely at the Nebraska State Capitol and is a beyond-the-headlines look into how state government works. Participants in the program may tour the Capitol building, meet with elected or appointed officials, practice the art of debate through mock hearings, learn about Nebraska's unique history, and identify how they can work together to build a stronger community through civic leadership. **By the end of this day, participants in the Capitol Experience Day program** are inspired and empowered to be more active, more engaged citizens.

---

*This day is always eye-opening to our students. I always enjoy seeing and talking with the students after (Capitol Experience Day) — they take themselves and school more seriously. Thank you again for making this day possible!*

Kate Damgaard, Lincoln Public Schools

---

## **Capitol Experience Day is customizable.**

Civic Nebraska can develop specific curriculum tailored to the needs of your group. We are ready to work with educators, specialists, and community leaders to make reasonable accommodations to meet the needs of the age group, individual interest, and/or subject matter. This program serves youth, college students, adults, and community groups.

Always we can  
make good things  
"together,"

# STORIES OF IMPACT

## BRINGING CIVICS EDUCATION TO LIFE

May 10, 2023

**Students from North Star High School** were introduced to the filibuster during legislative debate observation and two senators, Sen. Jen Day (LD49) of Omaha and Sen. Brian Hardin (LD48) of Gering, came to greet students off the floor of the Legislature. The two state senators represent different political affiliations and represent legislative districts on opposite ends of the state. Students packed the hearing room to ask Sen. Day and Sen. Hardin about how compromise factors into the positions they take on important issues that matter to their constituents.

*Lincoln North Star High School*



Civic Nebraska is excited to expand our partnership with Lincoln Public Schools this year serving 9th grade students enrolled in Civics and AP Human Geography & Civics. As of the 2022-2023 school year, the Capitol Experience Day was formally included into the LPS civics curriculum as an option for teachers to meet Civics standards and objectives.

# ENCOURAGING CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT (AND STARTING YOUNG!)



Each group of participants meets with a state legislator, executive branch official (e.g. Attorney General, Lieutenant Governor), and/or a Supreme Court Justice. These discussions can be the highlight of a student's experience, sometimes even inspiring them to seek a profession as a public servant. **Capitol Experience Day seeks to ignite interest in the art of self-governance and help students recognize that their adjacency to power and those in elected positions is not as far as they may think.** During a Capitol Experience Day program, students flex their newly acquired knowledge and passion through a simulated debate. Organizers help participants role-play as senators, proponents, and opponents in a real hearing room to debate real bills.

**DID  
YOU  
KNOW?**

**81%**

of participants who completed a Capitol Experience Day better understand the importance of government.

**75%**

of participants who completed a Capitol Experience Day better understand how a bill becomes a law.

**58%**

of participants who completed a Capitol Experience Day learned how to contact government officials.

# CAP DAY IN ACTION



*The Simple Foundation  
March 16, 2023*

*Lincoln North Star High School  
May 10, 2023*



*Lincoln Northeast High School  
March 29, 2023*



*Lincoln North Star High School  
April 27, 2023*

**DID  
YOU  
KNOW?**

**84%**

of participants better understand how Nebraska's government is unique!

# CONNECTING WITH RURAL STUDENTS & GREATER NEBRASKA CONSTITUENTS

*February 13, 2023*

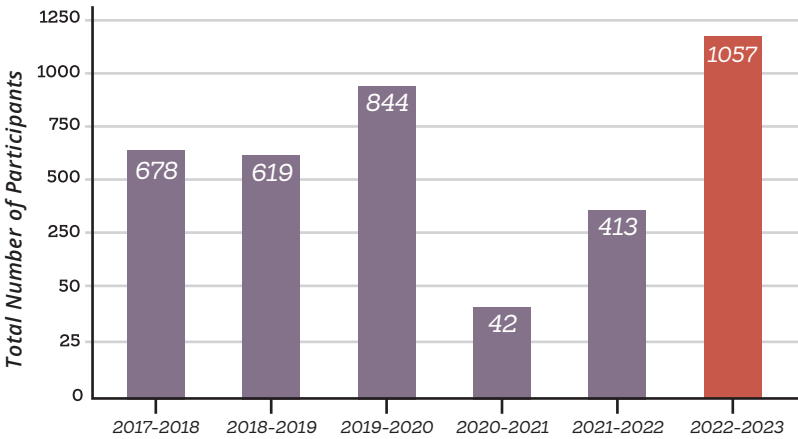
**A group of students from the University of Nebraska at Kearney** observed legislative debate, met with Nebraska Supreme Court Justice Stephanie Stacy, and were one of the first groups of students to meet the newly elected Gov. Jim Pillen as an introduction to the state executive branch.



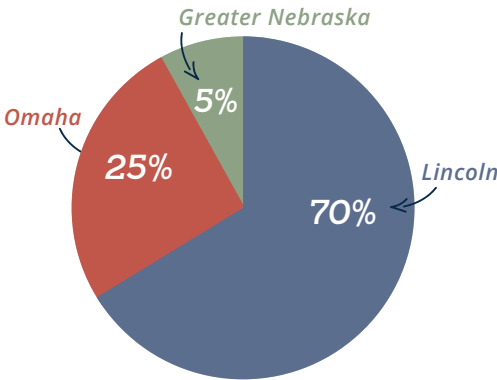
**UNK Loper Democracy Project  
February 13, 2023**

# BY THE NUMBERS

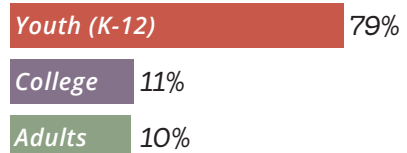
## HISTORIC PARTICIPATION



## PARTICIPATION BY GEOGRAPHY



## PARTICIPATION BY GROUP TYPE



## PARTICIPATION IN ARTS

398 participants engaged with the arts during a Capitol Experience Day.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)

66% Non ELL or ELS Served

34% ELL or ELS Served

All results are gathered from post-program surveys (n=399) and data collection.



# ABOUT

## CIVIC NEBRASKA

Civic Nebraska was founded in 2008, and our mission is to create a more modern and robust democracy for all Nebraskans. We envision a democracy where all citizens understand their inherent power and exercise it. Our work is focused on communities and individuals that have been underserved or historically disenfranchised. Our organization is divided into three program areas: Civic Health, Youth Civic Leadership, and Voting Rights. Civic Nebraska is a nonprofit organization that highlights civic engagement, social connectedness, confidence in institutions, and political involvement.

*Learn more about Capitol Experience Day by visiting [bit.ly/capdays](https://bit.ly/capdays) or by scanning the QR code.*



# THANK YOU

*TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS WHO  
MAKE CAPITOL EXPERIENCE DAY POSSIBLE!*