



**Beyond
Ready**



Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is CWF?

- For many decades, Citizenship Washington Focus has been a beloved program that inspires young leaders to learn about civil discourse, power of advocacy and the First Amendment through interactive workshops that help them reflect on citizenship and civic responsibility.

What is the Current State of CWF?

- Over the years, CWF attendance continues to decline.
- Rising costs, reduction of weeks due to the new model along with competing dates with fair season also impact attendance.
- For the last few years, only 8 states have consistently attended since leaving the Conference Center.
- States use and fund CWF in different ways:
 - It is an Award trip
 - Secure funding from their counties
 - Youth fundraiser or personally pay expenses

Will CWF be Cancelled?

- CWF will not be canceled - it will evolve.
- In 2025, CWF will continue as planned at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda with three (3) weekly cohorts from June 8- June 27th.
- The value of civic engagement is important as it empowers teens to understand their rights, amplify their voices, and take meaningful action to create positive change.
- After focus groups with some of the program leaders from states that attend yearly and our CWF Design Team educators, we recommend moving CWF as a dedicated civic engagement track of Ignite by 4-H.
 - The states consulted included: Arkansas, Connecticut, Louisiana, Nebraska, New Jersey, Oklahoma, South Dakota

Why Ignite by 4-H?

- Ignite by 4-H convenes teens from all over the country to find their spark while building career and life skills. With 54 states, territories, and Canada in attendance, teens meet like-minded peers, learn from each other, and make new connections.
- Ignite is held annually in March. We understand timing is difficult in March, as teens must miss school, but the culmination of different teens from various backgrounds adds value to educators and teens.

- With over 400 educators and volunteers attending, we recognize that chaperone capacity is stretched — by adding CWF as a track, we hope this will help with resources.
- There are scholarship opportunities available for those states and LGUs that have difficulty securing funding.
- Participants will learn presentation skills, different pathways in government, and discover how to create change at local, national, and global levels.

How will the programming change at Ignite by 4-H?

- The length of the programming will be shorter due to the length of Ignite.
- Teens will have access to more career, life and skill building workshops.

What will the stay the same?

- The programming elements around civil discourse, media literacy and the First Amendment.
- Program Assistants are an important part of the experience, acting as mentors and inspiring the teens to think beyond their local community, young adults will continue to lead this track.
- Capitol Hill Day at CWF is a time for delegates to meet with their representatives on the Hill. We will schedule time for these important meetings.

Ignite timing does not work for us, what other resources are available?

- Curriculum will be available by digital download from our CWF track at Ignite following the event for states that would like to do their own programming in the summer (or any other time).
- Guides such as chaperone guides with States' Night Out ideas, tour guide and travel resources will be listed as well for those states that cannot attend CWF at Ignite.
- Clover Capital will be available as a meeting space at no cost to those delegates that would like to create and attend their own CWF in the summer. Food & beverage will not be included, but nearby catering options will be provided. Please contact Melinda Cayzedo at MCayzedo@fourhcouncil.edu to schedule your visit.
- For more information, please contact events@4-h.org

Next Steps & Timeline

- Shared with PLWG on May 28, 2025
- Share with past CWF chaperones on the upcoming changes in first week of June 2025
- Announce Ignite 2026 in June 2025, with information on the new track
- Ignite 2026 will be on sale in June or July with the CWF track