



“A genuinely free society cannot be a spectator society... Freedom, in its deepest sense, requires participation. It requires full and zestful, knowledgeable participation.”

WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Founded in 1964, the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships is the nation’s premiere program for leadership and public service. The White House Fellowship offers exceptional Americans first-hand experience working at the highest levels of the Federal government. After a competitive application process, selected individuals spend a year in Washington, DC working as a full-time, paid Fellow to Cabinet Secretaries, senior White House staff, and other top-ranking government officials. Fellows also participate in an education program consisting of roundtable discussions with renowned leaders from the private and public sectors. Fellowships are awarded on a strictly non-partisan basis.

Program Mission

In the words of President Lyndon B. Johnson, the purpose of the White House Fellows Program is “to give the Fellows first-hand, high-level experience with the workings of the Federal Government and to increase their sense of participation in our national affairs.” In describing the criteria for selection, President Johnson envisioned Fellows who “have demonstrated high moral character, exceptional ability, marked leadership qualities, and unusual promise of future development.” For 50 years, the White House Fellows program has delivered on this vision. After their year of service, Fellows are expected to take their acquired skills and knowledge back to their communities to work as private citizens and as national leaders in their fields.

Selection Criteria

- A record of remarkable professional achievement early in one's career.
- Evidence of leadership skills and the potential for further growth.
- A demonstrated commitment to public service.
- The skills to succeed at the highest levels of the Federal government, and the ability to work effectively as part of a team.

Applicant Eligibility

- Applicants must be a U.S. citizen
- Federal government employees are not eligible, with the exception of career military personnel and some special government employees
- Applicants must have completed their undergraduate education

Applications are due in January of each year and the Fellowship runs from August to August.

Make an impact. Become a White House Fellow.
Visit www.whitehouse.gov/about/fellows to learn more.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Work Placement

The primary aim of the Fellowship is to place the Fellows in a work environment where positive role models provide mentorship and guidance. The work placement should tap the Fellows' full capacity and develop their abilities further. Fellows are not always assigned to a Federal agency associated with the Fellow's area of expertise.

Education Program

The education program supplements the Fellows' experience in their placements. The education component of the program provides off-the-record, candid discussions with distinguished leaders. Through the education program, Fellows gain valuable insights into the decision-making processes used to solve complex issues. They also gain insights into various management philosophies and leadership styles.

Class Fellowship

Among the most enriching components of the program is class fellowship, which often results in enduring friendships. Alumni convene at yearly meetings in Washington, DC and welcome new Fellows into one of the most prestigious networks of professionals and leaders in the country.

Community Service

Community service is a key component of the White House Fellowship. Fellows have a strong legacy of service to their communities and have consistently participated in community service projects throughout their year in Washington, DC.

An important outcome of the Fellowship is to foster greater military-civilian engagement and understanding. Through a variety of activities, Fellows gain a deeper understanding about the important contributions of our service men and women, and the operations of our military. This component is among the most enriching aspects of the White House Fellowship and what makes the program truly unique and rewarding.

Impact of the Fellowship

Fellows make notable contributions during their year of service and continue to impact our communities, our country, and the world. Since 1964, over 700 Americans have participated in the White House Fellows program. Among them are prominent public and private sector leaders like Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian, Doris Kearns Goodwin, CNN Medical Correspondent Sanjay Gupta, and former Secretary of State General Colin Powell, who described the program as a "turning point" in his career. While these distinguished individuals are well-known, we also have among us a Soldier's Medal recipient, the U.S. Army's highest decoration for valor in a non-combat situation, awarded for bravery exhibited during the Boston Marathon bombing, CEOs, teachers, social entrepreneurs, scientists, and founders of nonprofit organizations who we are proud to claim as White House Fellows. Through this rich diversity of people, the Fellows family is united by an enduring commitment to public service.

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