

**NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM:
NATIONAL SECURITY
Diplomacy, Intelligence, & Defense**

2025 Sample Schedule*

Day One Welcome to the Fields of National Security and Foreign Affairs

Registration

Orientation and Introduction to Your Group

Learn about the variety of opportunities available to you from speakers in the diplomacy, intelligence, and defense fields. Explore the key components of establishing a national security strategy, then process how your leadership style might affect its implementation.

Group Meetings

Meet like-minded peers from around the country

Introduction to National Security

Day Two Our Nation's Security

Keynote Speaker

Jonna Mendez, former Chief of Disguise for the CIA, shares her career journey and the various roles she served in the agency. She describes her experience living undercover on several tours in Europe, Asia, and Russia and how she applies her expertise as a consultant to the U.S. Intelligence community to this day.

Group Meeting

National Security Strategy Lessons

Focus on Careers

Launching Your Professional Network

Group Meetings: National Security Strategy Lessons

Analyzing the Colonial Pipeline Hack

Diplomacy Speaking Event

Speaking event with Representative from U.S. Department of State

Day Three Day of Exploration

Defense and Intelligence Site Experiences

Students will receive a firsthand view of the institutions that safeguard and shape our country through exclusive visits to some of the most influential sites in the nation's capital.

- U.S. Department of State
- The Pentagon
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Foreign Embassy
- Arlington National Cemetery
- Old Town Alexandria
- Smithsonian Museums

**Site experiences may vary by program session.*

Group Meetings

Introduction to National Security Crisis Simulation

Presidential Election for Simulation

Day Four National Security in Action

National Security Crisis Simulation

Apply your newly gained knowledge and competencies in the National Security Crisis Simulation, where you'll collaborate and strategize with your peers to resolve true-to-life major national and international crises.

In your assigned role that plays to your strengths, you will need to manage competing interests and collaborate with your peers to meet true-to-life security challenges. You will need to draw upon skills such as communication, critical thinking, persuasion and responsible decision-making, as you work with your peers.

Day Five Day of Reflection and Remembrance

Keynote Speaker: The Wounded Warrior Project

Challenges and Opportunities: The Human Impact of National Security

Arlington National Cemetery

Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns,
Wreath-Laying Ceremony, and Kennedy Gravesites

The National Mall: Visit to a Smithsonian Institution Museum

Tributes to Valor and Sacrifice: Tour of Our Nation's Memorials

Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, and National WWII Memorial

Day Six Day of Intelligence

Group Meeting

Leadership & National Security

Defining National Security Strategy

Intelligence Speaking Event

Hear from experts in the field of intelligence who will answer questions and share insight on careers and opportunities of this in-demand field.

Day Seven Day of Defense

National Security Crisis Simulation

Assume the role of a diplomatic decision-maker and construct a plan to generate forward-thinking solutions to true-to-life crises situations.

Defense Speaking Event

Hear from experts in the field of defense who will answer questions and share insight on careers and opportunities of this in-demand field.

Group Meeting

Debrief Career Experiences

Day Eight Looking Forward

Forum Debrief

Closing Ceremony: Path to New Beginnings

Departures