



Movimiento Tricolor

Camden to Congress: 2025 Cohort Application

<https://www.movimientotricolor.org>

Application Instructions:

Thank you for your interest in the Camden to Congress Program! Please carefully read the information on the following pages before completing the application. Your participation will empower you as a leader and change-maker in your community.

For any questions or concerns with your application, please reach ashly@movitricolor.org

Why This Matters:

Across the nation, young people from historically marginalized communities, including Black, Latino, Asian, immigrant, and multilingual youth, are at the forefront of change. They are organizing movements, challenging injustice, and redefining what equity and representation mean in America. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population under age 18 is now the most racially and ethnically diverse group in the country¹. This demographic shift underscores a critical imperative: our democracy depends on preparing all young people, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds, to participate, lead, and shape the systems that govern their lives.

Yet in cities like Camden, New Jersey, where over 90% of residents identify as people of color² and more than 1 in 4³ live below the poverty line, young people are too often excluded from the civic spaces and decisions that directly impact their futures. In the 2024 General Election, **less than half of Camden's registered voters**⁴ cast a ballot. While this figure represents adults, it reflects a broader civic disengagement that begins in childhood, where young people lack early exposure to civic education, mentorship, and meaningful participation in public life.

These barriers often begin in the classroom. In Camden's public schools, **nearly half of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch**⁵ and graduation rates lag far behind the state average, many students receive limited access to civic education, face language barriers, and rarely encounter visible mentors in government or public service.

Without early exposure to how decisions are made or how they can be influenced, young people are less likely to see themselves as part of the democratic process or future civic leaders.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. *Exploring the Racial and Ethnic Diversity of Adults and Children*. May 10, 2023. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2023/05/racial-ethnic-diversity-adults-children.html>

² Data USA. *Camden, NJ Profile*. Retrieved from <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/camden-nj/>

³ Data USA. *Camden, NJ Profile*. Retrieved from <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/camden-nj/>

⁴ New Jersey Department of State, Division of Elections. *Number of Registered Voters and Ballots Cast – November 5, 2024 General Election Results: Camden County*. Retrieved from <https://www.nj.gov/state/elections/assets/pdf/election-results/2024/2024-official-general-result-ballotscast-camden.pdf>

⁵ U.S. News & World Report. *Camden City School District - Education*. Retrieved from <https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/new-jersey/districts/camden-city-school-district-112173>

About Movimiento Tricolor (MTC)

Movimiento Tricolor (MTC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to empowering the Latino community in Camden and beyond through initiatives focused on civic engagement, cultural enrichment, education, and leadership development. Our mission is to provide services and resources to address the social and economic barriers facing the Dominican community and community at-large.

Who We Are

Movimiento Tricolor Inc. is a local 501(c) 3 non-profit organization formed for charitable and educational purposes with of capacity building and empowering the Dominican community and its at-large community.

Mission

Movimiento Tricolor's (MTC) mission is to provide services and resources to address the social and economic barriers facing the Dominican community and community at large to address the social and economic barriers.

Vision

To unite the diverse Dominican diaspora and community at-large to create a supportive hub to increase their social and economic development.

Pillars:

Economic Development

Education

Cultura

Civic Engagement & Advocacy

Camden to Congress

Camden to Congress is an equity-centered, community-rooted civic leadership program that empowers high school students from historically marginalized backgrounds to build the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to engage in public life and shape the systems that impact them.

Through an accessible and inclusive hybrid model, the program delivers high-impact, culturally relevant civic education via eight Saturday sessions, independent civic engagement assignments, and optional in-person experiences. Youth develop core competencies in policy literacy, public speaking, storytelling, and self-advocacy, with learning outcomes designed to foster long-term civic participation and leadership.

The program prioritizes leadership pipeline development by facilitating direct engagement with elected officials, local organizers, and professional staffers from Congress and the White House, ensuring students see themselves reflected in public service. These interactions provide invaluable mentorship, visibility, and inspiration.

The initiative culminates in a capstone experience in Washington, D.C., where students participate in a guided Capitol tour and leadership roundtable with congressional and former White House staffers of color, bridging local knowledge with national exposure.

Camden to Congress is designed to close opportunity gaps in civic leadership, invest in youth as changemakers, and build a more inclusive democracy.

2025 Onboarding Timeline:

- Applications Open: May 29, 2025
- Rolling Acceptances Begin: Mid-June 2025
- Application Deadline: June 29, 2025
- Cohort Confirmation Deadline: July 15, 2025
- Program Start Date: Saturday, July 19, 2025
 - Note: All required paperwork must be submitted by the program start date.
- Cohort Size: Maximum of 12 participants

Program Schedule: Unless otherwise noted, all sessions take place on Saturdays from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM virtually.

- July 19: Session 1: Introduction to Civic Engagement and Storytelling
- August 2: Session 2: Local Government & Community Power
- August 9: Session 3: State Government & Youth Advocacy
- August 10–30: Independent Civic Engagement Weeks
 - Civic Snapshot Reflection
 - Mini Interview Assignment

- Civic Role Model Research
 - Optional virtual office hours available
- September 6: Session 4: Federal Government 101
- September 13: Session 5: Advocacy in Action
- September 20: Session 6: Careers in Public Service
- September 27: Session 7: Final Projects & Reflection
- October 11: Session 8: D.C. Trip Prep & Cohort Celebration
 - Includes guided tour of the U.S. Capitol and private lunch discussion with congressional and former White House staffers of color, focusing on leadership, representation, and public service pathways.

Optional In-Person Opportunities

- **City Council Meeting**
Tuesday, August 12, 2025
Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 1000 Lyttleton Street, Camden, NJ
5:30 PM
 - **Voter Registration Tabling**
TBD, September 2025
Event to be announced (Camden, NJ)
 A community tabling opportunity at an MTC event to promote voter registration in recognition of *National Voter Registration Day*.
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Application Checklist:

- 1. Completed Application**
- 2. Three short prompt questions**
- 3. Parent/Guardian Information and Permission Form**
- 4. Technology Access:** Students will need access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone with internet access to participate in virtual sessions and complete assignments.

Application:

Student Information

- Full Name:
- School:
- Grade (9-12):
 - *Please indicate the grade level you will be entering in the 2025-2026 academic year*
 - *Example: If I just completed my first year of 9th grade in June 2025, I will select 10th grade*
- Date of Birth:
- Email Address:
- Phone Number
- GPA:

Would you like to receive emails from MTC about future opportunities and engagements

Yes No

What is your race?

Check all that apply.

American Indian or Alaska Native

Asian

Black or African American

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

White

How do you identify?

Check all that apply.

Black or African-American
Afro-Latino
American Indian, Native American, or Indigenous
Asian American or Pacific Islander
Hispanic/Latino/Latinx/Latine
White
Other:

What is your place of birth?

U.S.

Outside of the U.S.

GPA:

Employment / Volunteer Work (if applicable)

Job Title:

Responsibilities:

Start Date:

End Date:

Employer:

Job Title:

Responsibilities:

Start Date:

End Date:

Employer:

Job Title:

Responsibilities:

Start Date:

End Date:

Volunteer and/or Community Involvement

Activity	Years Involved/ Hours Involved	Position / Board Role	Describe your role	Other Information

Essay Prompts (*Please respond to all three prompts below.*)

Your responses will be reviewed for thoughtfulness, clarity, and depth of reflection. We encourage you to be descriptive and authentic in sharing your experiences and perspectives. Please limit each response to 150–250 words. Take your time to reflect and answer each question thoughtfully.

1. Why are you interested in participating in Camden to Congress? What do you hope to learn, gain, or experience through this program?

2. Tell us about a time you used your voice.

Describe a moment when you spoke up, took action, or stood up for something you believed in. What did you learn from that experience?

3. What is an issue that matters deeply to you?

This could be something affecting your school, community, or the broader world. Why is it important to you, and how would you like to see it change?

Parent Forms and Information

Parent/Guardian Information | Información del Padre/Madre o Tutor Legal

- Parent/Guardian Name/ Nombre del Padre/Madre o Tutor:
- Parent/Guardian Email/ Correo Electrónico del Padre/Madre o Tutor:
- Parent/Guardian Phone Number/ Número de Teléfono del Padre/Madre o Tutor:
- Relationship to Student/ Relación con el Estudiante:
- Cell Phone Number/ Número de Celular:
- Work Phone Number/ Número de Teléfono del Trabajo:
- Home Address | Dirección de Casa:

Preferred Method of Contact | Método de Contacto Preferido:

☐ Cell | Celular ☐ Work | Trabajo ☐ Email | Correo Electrónico

Would you like us to contact you in | ¿Desea que nos comuniquemos con usted en:

☐ English ☐ Español

Emergency Contact | Contacto de Emergencia

- Name/ Nombre :
- Email/ Correo Electrónico:
- Phone Number/ Número de Teléfono:
- Relationship to Student/ Relación con el Estudiante:
- Cell Phone Number/ Número de Celular:
- Work Phone Number/ Número de Teléfono del Trabajo:
- Home Address | Dirección de Casa:

Preferred Method of Contact | Método de Contacto Preferido:

☐ Cell | Celular ☐ Work | Trabajo ☐ Email | Correo Electrónico

Would you like us to contact you in | ¿Desea que nos comuniquemos con usted en:

☐ English ☐ Español

Media Release Form

Movimiento Tricolor students may be photographed and videographed over the course of the program and during special events. The photographs and videos often capture the essence of our program and students' love of learning. As such, Movimiento Tricolor may use the images in promotion of the program and activities. In addition, special events and other activities may be captured by members of the professional media. The Media Release Form grants permission to use a student's name, photograph, voice, image and information by the program for use in the program's publications, promotional materials, social media sites, and website.

By signing below, you indicate your preference on whether your student can be photographed for the media activities and purposes as they relate to the music program.

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature:

_____ Date: _____

____ Yes, I grant permission for my child to participate in the media activities described above.

____ No, I do not want my child to participate in the media activities described above.

Parent/Guardian Permission Form

Camden to Congress 2025 – Parent/Guardian Consent Form

Student Full Name:

School Name:

Grade: Date of Birth:

Parent/Guardian Full Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

I, the undersigned, hereby give permission for my child to participate in the Camden to Congress 2025 program, organized by Movimiento Tricolor. By signing below, I acknowledge and agree to the following:

- I understand that this is a **12 week hybrid** leadership program that includes virtual and optional in-person sessions, independent assignments, and a capstone trip to Washington, D.C.
- I grant permission for my child to attend all program events, including workshops, local events, and the capstone trip.
- I understand my child will be expected to attend scheduled sessions, complete assignments, and actively participate throughout the duration of the program.
- I agree to communicate with the program lead if any issues arise that would prevent my child from fully participating. (please reach ashly@movitricolor.org)

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Emergency Contact Name (if different): _____

Emergency Contact Phone: _____