

# MINITOWN DESCRIPTION

**Minitown- Mission & Goal** The “TOWN” program strives to celebrate diversity and reduce bias, bigotry, prejudice and a better respect for their classmates. Programming is done in an experiential, interactive and safe setting where all students (referred to as “Delegates”) set their norms and guidelines they all mutually agree to abide by and create a safe space to promote participation. This is not a classroom or lecture type of environment but rather a unique and structured curriculum where one exercise builds upon another.

## **Minitown- Programming**

Programming is done in a low risk and welcoming environment in a large group setting where delegates have the choice to share their experiences without having to justify or validate why they chose to either [step to the line, step inside the circle, take a step forward/backwards]. After a the exercise portion we process each activity using a structure and consistent processing model O.R.I.D. Questions are structured to produce dialogue among the delegates and each letter of O.R.I.D focuses on a particular area:

- O: Observation - “What did you see?, What did you notice?”
- R: Reflective - “How did you feel?, How did you decide?”
- I: Interpretative - “What did this activity have to do with your life, What did you learn?”
- D: Decisional - “What will you do with this information, Make an “I” statement?”

Delegates will confront issues regarding stereotypes, disabilities, gender, occupations, faith and religion, body types, sexual orientation, class and privilege. Participants of this program been recorded through program evaluations say they felt the program is so motivating, enabling them to appreciate others in an accepting and understanding fashion. By participating in the Minitown program students will walk away with new skills to help them:

- Decrease stereotyping attitudes
- Increase egalitarian attitudes
- Decrease bullying and social peer pressure
- Develop an expanded awareness of prejudices and its harmful effects on individuals, groups and communities
- Improve leadership skills
- Realize the impact they can have on their own communities
- Helping build a school community of inclusion and acceptance

Minitown is a weekend retreat program that will take place in northern Arizona, during the camp students and teachers will participate in large group activities and small discussion groups to address issues that affect them at school and in their community. Your school feels this is a beneficial program for your students and your community it funds the program year after year.

Programming is not designed to set students up for disclosures, statements during the exercises are said in a format when there are an umbrella list of self-identifying traits (ie “If you were ever called names because of your race, religion, class. Ethnicity, gender, disability or sexual orientation, take one step back.” Delegates discuss and collectively work on ways to create the school environment they wish to see.

Through this program young leaders emerge and volunteer and participant in the program as a counselor role and become the peer to peer leader who serves in the program facilitator of activities. Each counselor is hand selected through an application and training process. Minitown facilitators at minimum have 3 or more years of “TOWN” program facilitation experience and work under the guidance of the program Director.