

Ryan Estus, RI – 2022

My personal experience at the 2022 United States Senate Youth Program was a great one.

Getting to hear from the highly acclaimed speakers from the event was an amazing opportunity and something I will remember for many years to come. I especially enjoyed getting to hear from UN Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, as well as former Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy, and Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg.

Getting to hear from these high-profile speakers about topics ranging from alternative energy expansion to the operations of the Supreme Court was all very interesting to me and included insightful responses from the speakers to questions asked by my fellow delegates. My Military Mentor group also played a sizeable role in my enjoyment of this year's program. Lt. Burkhart was a great mentor to have throughout the duration of the events and was a great representation of our nation's Naval branch.

In addition, all of my fellow delegates, both inside and out of my Mentor group, were awesome to get to know. It was really cool to hear from many different perspectives from all across the country on so many different issues, many of which I had never thought too much about prior to Washington Week.

In short, it really was an honor to be able to participate in the 2022 United States Senate Youth Program. The people I got to hear from, along with the people I was able to meet, made missing those three days of school absolutely worth it. It was truly an honor to be selected for this prestigious program, and the memories I made during Washington Week are ones that will be with me for a long time.