62ND ANNUAL WASHINGTON WEEK
MARCH 2-9, 2024
USSENATEYOUTH.ORG

UNITED STATES SENATE
★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★

EDUCATION • LEADERSHIP • PUBLIC SERVICE • RESPECT
The United States Senate unanimously passed a resolution in 1962 creating the UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM (USSYP), a national nonpartisan initiative to provide an annual opportunity for talented high school students with demonstrated leadership abilities to deepen their understanding of America’s political processes and strengthen their resolve to pursue careers in public service.

The USSYP brings the highest-level officials from each branch of government to meet with this outstanding group of young leaders — two high school juniors or seniors from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) — for an intensive week-long education and leadership program to be held either in Washington, D.C., or online. The program is merit-based and highly competitive. Each student will also receive a $10,000 undergraduate college scholarship with encouragement to pursue coursework in history and political science. Now in its 62nd year, the program has been fully funded since inception by THE HEARST FOUNDATIONS as an enduring commitment to preparing young people for civic leadership in our participatory democracy.

Numbering more than 6,100, USSYP alumni serve the country in many ways. They have become leaders in government, law, business, education, journalism, the military, medicine, healthcare, higher education and many other fields. Alumni serve as elected and appointed officials at all levels of government, including a current United States senator, a current cabinet secretary, many congressional staff members, a former governor, former senior political advisors to the president of the United States, former ambassadors and former federal judges. The commonality to all of their success is the desire to serve.

HOW TO QUALIFY

Qualified high school juniors or seniors must show demonstrated leadership by serving in elected or appointed positions in which they are actively representing a constituency in organizations related to student government, education, public affairs and community service. They must be actively serving in qualified leadership positions, enrolled in high school and living in the state (and for these purposes, the District of Columbia) that they will represent for the entire 2023–2024 academic year.

The DoDEA central administrative office will select the DoDEA delegates and alternates residing overseas. Military dependents who reside and attend schools in the U.S. shall apply for the program under the RESIDENCY ruling shown below.

Alternate delegates will be selected as replacements if a primary delegate is unable to participate in Washington Week. If the primary delegate is unable to attend, The Hearst Foundations must be notified in advance.

Attendance during the entire Washington Week program is required to receive the financial scholarship; appropriate disposition of scholarship funds will be determined by the program director if a primary delegate is unable to attend the program due to emergency circumstances or is dismissed.

Selection will be based on the student's outstanding abilities and demonstrated qualities of leadership in an elected or appointed student office for the entire 2023–2024 school year. The primary purposes of the qualifying leadership position must be representation of a constituency and service to others. A student who graduates high school at the close of the Fall 2023 semester/quarter is not eligible to apply for the program, and students other than DoDEA delegates must be residing in one state of primary residence in the U.S. during the entire 2023–2024 academic year to participate.

1. Any high school junior or senior student is eligible for the program provided they have not previously been a delegate to Washington Week and have not received a USSYP scholarship. The student must hold a high-level leadership position in any one of the following student government, civic or educational organizations during the entire 2023–2024 academic year:
   a. Student Body president, vice president, secretary or treasurer
   b. Class president, vice president, secretary or treasurer
   c. Student Council representative
   d. A National Honor Society officer (including discipline-based Honor Societies such as the National English and Social Studies Honor Societies that include service components)
   e. Student representative elected or appointed (appointed by a panel, commission or board) to a local, district, regional or state-level civic, service and/or educational organization approved

THE PROGRAM

The 62nd Annual United States Senate Youth Program Washington Week is being planned for March 2–9, 2024, in Washington, D.C.

Delegates will hear major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, officials of the Departments of State and Defense, leaders of other federal agencies and senior members of the national media. Delegates also traditionally participate in a meeting with a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and the president of the United States. Most speaking events include in-depth question and answer sessions.

The Hearst Foundations will pay all expenses for Washington Week including transportation, hotel and meals. The Department of Defense (DoD) annually provides a team of competitively selected men and women officers to serve as mentors and chaperones for the student delegates, and a registered nurse, licensed physician and professional security team are in place at all times throughout an in-person week.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION

Two student delegates and a first and second alternate will be designated by the chief school officer from each state, the District of Columbia and DoDEA by December 1, 2023. The Hearst Foundations will provide $1,000 to each state-level department of education to assist with the selection expenses for the program and will also provide a rigorous public affairs examination that may be used in the selection process. Applications are generally submitted in late summer and early fall and may be obtained from high school principals and school counselors or directly from the state-level selection administrator or their state Department of Education website. Application deadline dates and processes vary by state, and specific application materials may be found on most state Department of Education websites. All state contacts, websites and deadlines are accessible on the USSYP website: ussenateyouth.org
by the state selection administrator, where the student holds a high-
level position of representation to a
constituency in a year-round capacity
providing service to others.

2. Participation or holding an officer
position in academic clubs, educational
competition programs/conferences or
organizations designed primarily for the
student’s personal development and
enrichment do not qualify a student for
the USSYP, although many students who
qualify participate in these activities. The
positions listed below DO NOT qualify
the student for the program:

- Attendance or officer position at
  Boys/Girls Nation or State summer
  conference
- Member of a National Honor Society
  (serving as an elected officer for
  the organization for the entire school year is
  acceptable)
- Member or leader of the Boy Scouts,
  Girl Scouts or a sports team
- A founder or chairperson of a self-
  created group
- A participant, captain or officer in
  Mock Trial, Debate Team, Model UN or
  other academic club, mock legislature,
  conference or competition where the
  primary engagement is for individual
  educational benefit.

RESIDENCY: Each student must be a legal
permanent resident or citizen of the United
States at the time of application. Students must
be enrolled for the entire academic year in a public
or independent high school located in the state
(and for these purposes, the District of Columbia)
in which at least one of their parents or guardians
currently resides. Home-educated students
must be approved by their state department of
education to apply.

Exceptions to the residency requirement will only
be made in the following cases:

a. Students from DoDEA overseas will
represent the state(s) of which the parents/
  guardians are U.S. legal voting residents.
  Students attending DoD schools in the U.S.
  or students enrolled through U.S. military
bases in local schools must be residing in the
state in which their school is located for the
entire academic year.

b. Students may reside in a state other than the
state in which they attend school if they are
enrolled in the only designated public high
school available to them in a school district
that crosses contiguous state borders
through legal interstate agreement. Students
in these schools shall make application to the
program through the state where the high
school is located and shall represent that
state if selected.

2. NO TOURS OR TRIPS WILL BE
PERMITTED BY INDIVIDUAL
DELEGATES WHILE TRAVELING TO
OR FROM WASHINGTON, D.C. OR
WHILE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THIS
POLICY INCLUDES ANY OTHER
OUTSIDE ACTIVITY, CONFERENCE,
SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION OR
EVENT OF ANOTHER ORGANIZATION
THAT IS CONDUCTED IN WASHINGTON,
D.C. OR THE SURROUNDING AREA
DURING THE TIME FRAME OF
THE USSYP WASHINGTON WEEK,
AND INCLUDES ANY OUTSIDE
APPOINTMENT OR EVENT DURING
THE PROGRAM WEEK.

All travel provided by The Hearst
Foundations is round-trip only and
scheduled within the time frames listed below:

ARRIVAL D.C.: Saturday, March 2,
between 6:00 AM and 5:00 PM
DEPARTURE D.C.: Saturday, March 9,
between 5:00 AM and 9:00 AM

3. The chief state school officer from each state,
the District of Columbia and DoDEA must
submit in writing to The Hearst Foundations
by DECEMBER 1, 2023, the names of the
two delegates and two alternates. Upon
confirmation of qualifications, the program
requires each delegate to submit a statement of
participation including a code of conduct
agreement to be signed by students and
parents/legal guardians. All program rules
apply to the group as a whole, defined as
minors.

4. Code of Conduct: Delegates will be the
guests of the United States Senate and The
Hearst Foundations throughout the program,
whether in-person or online, and are required
to conduct themselves with civility, dignity
and professionalism. Debate and discussion
are actively encouraged in an environment
of tolerance, respect and inclusion. Students
selected to the program are serving as at-
large public representatives of their states,
communities and schools, and attend the
program to learn from the speakers and from
one another. Students are prohibited from
engaging in lobbying, petitioning, protest or
overt political activism during Washington
Week. Cyber bullying and bullying of any kind
will not be tolerated. Delegates must comply
with all program health and safety policies.

5. It will be the responsibility of the parents/
legal guardians to transport (at their expense)
each delegate to the nearest
commercial airport or train station that
provides round-trip travel to Washington,
D.C., from their hometown. All itineraries
will be designed for the least amount of
time and most direct routing.

6. No arrangements for individual religious
practices or services other than dietary
guidelines will be made during an in-person
Washington Week. This policy will be
strictly observed from the time the student
delegates arrive at the Washington area
airports, train station and program site until
they return home.

7. The program does not allow any individual or
group athletic activities outside of the hotel
facility.

8. Failure to abide by rules and requirements of
the program will result in dismissal from
the program and forfeiture of the $10,000
scholarship award. Rules related to the
USSYP and scholarship award shall be
construed, interpreted and applied by The
Hearst Foundations, whose action and
determination shall be final and binding.

SCHOLARSHIP

The Hearst Foundations believe it is in the
public interest to encourage these outstanding
young people to continue their educational
development. The $10,000 undergraduate college
scholarship award is subject to the conditions and
requirements specified below. Additional
detailed scholarship information will be provided to the
delegates after Washington Week. Certificates
representing the award will be presented to the
delegates during their visit to Washington, D.C.,
often personally signed by their senators.

SCHOLARSHIP RULES

1. The $10,000 college scholarship and attendance at the Washington
Week program are one, inseparable award. Delegates must participate in the
Washington Week program in accordance with all program rules and policies in order to
receive the financial scholarship.

2. The USSYP scholarship is designated
for undergraduate college study only
at an accredited United States college or
university. All students are encouraged to
include history, political science or related
subjects in their undergraduate program.

3. The $10,000 scholarship is designated for
the specified student’s education expense
and must be used within four years after
enrollment. Funds are paid directly to the
college or university in the student’s behalf.
No funds may be given directly to a student.
The scholarship will be issued in either one
payment of $10,000 or increments of $5,000
or $2,500.

4. Students attending military academies (U.S.
Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Coast
Guard) may draw the USSYP scholarship per
the guidelines to purchase required military
uniforms, books, computer equipment and
other educational materials.

5. A student will automatically forfeit eligibility
for a scholarship award by failure to abide by
all rules and requirements pertaining to the
program and the scholarship or in the event of
misconduct as a delegate to the United
States Senate Youth Program.

PROGRAM RULES

1. All delegates must agree to fully block
both arrival and departure travel days to
participate in Washington Week.
In 1962, Senate Resolution 324, submitted by Senator KUCHEL (for himself and Senators MANSFIELD, DIRKSEN, and HUMPHREY), was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration, and, subsequently, unanimously approved by the United States Senate as follows:

WHEREAS the continued vitality of our Republic depends, in part, on the intelligent understanding of our political processes and the functions of our National Government by the citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS the durability of a constitutional democracy is dependent upon alert, talented, vigorous competition for political leadership; and

WHEREAS individual Senators have cooperated with various private and university undergraduate and graduate fellowship and internship programs relating to the work of Congress; and

WHEREAS in the high schools of the United States, there exists among students who have been elected to student body offices in their junior or senior year a potential reservoir of young citizens who are experiencing their first responsibilities of service to a constituency and who should be encouraged to deepen their interest in and understanding of their country’s political process. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate hereby expresses its willingness to cooperate in a nationwide competitive high school Senate youth program which would give several representative high school students from each State a short indoctrination into the operation of the United States Senate and the Federal Government generally, if such a program can be satisfactorily arranged and completely supported by private funds with no expense to the Federal Government.

RESOLUTION 146. To amend S. Res. 324 of the Eighty-seventh Congress to provide for the participation of the Department of Defense education system for dependents in overseas areas in the Senate Youth Program.

Resolved, That S. Res. 324, Eighty-seventh Congress, agreed to May 17, 1963, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

Section 3. For the purpose of this resolution, the term “State” includes the Department of Defense education system for dependents in overseas areas.