

David Daniel, KY – 2023

The United States Senate Youth Program has truly been one of, if not the most, amazing experiences of my life. I can already begin to see its effect in propelling me towards my dreams. The memories made here have been countless and will be some of the fondest ever made. You make friends from so many diverse backgrounds, and I can only hope that this network stays strong and reliable throughout my professional life.

Something that was very profound about the program for me was my participation as a junior. Most of the scholars here were seniors who had already applied to colleges. Now I have the joy of seeing all these amazing students announce their very numerous Ivy League acceptances (and amazing post-secondary plans in general). I had the benefit of receiving advice from people who are more experienced than me when it comes to scholarship, networking, and career preparation.

Additionally, if someone from Kentucky (or any state for that matter) wants to be a part of this program, I highly recommend reaching out to someone from your state. I got some help from a previous member from Kentucky, and his insight pushed me towards the position. And some more advice for anyone reading this, use this time to the fullest. This program is 104 of the most driven high schoolers in the U.S. You hear from the most intelligent government officials. You are mentored by members of the military. You are constantly surrounded by opportunities to learn and improve. This was the most amazing part of the program for me. It was my first time ever experiencing something where I was surrounded by that many people like me. Ask that question you want to ask, introduce yourself, be bold. This week is entirely what you make of it, so be yourself and soak up your surroundings.