



# UNITED STATES SENATE ★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★

EDUCATION • LEADERSHIP • PUBLIC SERVICE • RESPECT

65<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WASHINGTON WEEK | MARCH 6-13, 2027

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## 104 STUDENTS WILL BE SELECTED FOR A WEEK-LONG GOVERNMENT AND LEADERSHIP EDUCATION PROGRAM, AND EACH WILL RECEIVE A \$12,500 UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP.

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The United States Senate unanimously passed a resolution in 1962 creating the UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM (USSYP), a national nonpartisan initiative. Each year, exceptional high school students with proven leadership skills are selected to attend the USSYP. The program is designed 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 overseas military-connected high schools — for an intensive week-long education and leadership program. The program is merit-based and highly competitive. Each student will also receive a \$12,500 undergraduate college scholarship, with encouragement to pursue coursework in history and political science. Now in its 65th 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 6,400, USSYP alumni are leaders in government, law, business, education, journalism, the military, medicine, healthcare, higher education and many other fields. Alumni have served as elected and appointed officials at all levels of government, including U.S. Senators and Representatives, a Secretary of the Cabinet, a Governor, senior political advisors to the president of the United States, ambassadors and federal judges. The hallmark of their success is the desire to serve.

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### THE PROGRAM

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#### **The 65th Annual United States Senate Youth Program Washington Week will be held March 6–13, 2027, in Washington, D.C.**

Delegates will hear major policy addresses by Senators, Cabinet members, officials from the Pentagon and Department of State, 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 U.S. Armed Forces annually provide a team of competitively selected officers to serve as mentors and chaperones for the student delegates. A registered nurse, licensed physician and professional security team are in place at all times throughout the week.

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### APPLICATION AND SELECTION

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#### **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 overseas military-connected high schools by December 1, 2026.**

Applications may be obtained from high school principals and school counselors or directly from the state-level selection administrator or each jurisdiction's department of education website.

Submission deadline dates and processes vary by state but are generally due by late summer/early fall. Specific application materials may be found on most state department of education websites. All state contacts, websites and deadlines are also available on the USSYP website: [ussenateyouth.org](https://ussenateyouth.org)

The Hearst Foundations will provide application materials, including a rigorous public affairs exam, and \$1,000 to each state-level department of education to assist with the selection expenses for the program.

*Military dependents who reside and attend schools in the U.S. should apply for the program according to the RESIDENCY requirements shown below. Applications from students attending overseas military-connected high schools should submit to the Education Activities Headquarters for selection of international delegates and alternates.*

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### HOW TO QUALIFY

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**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/or community service.**

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***The primary purposes of the qualifying leadership position must be representation of a constituency and service to others.***

Students must be actively serving in qualifying leadership positions, enrolled in high school and living in the state (or for these purposes, the District of Columbia) that they will represent for the entire 2026–2027 academic year.

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 2026–2027 school year.

Students other than overseas military dependents must be residing in one state of primary residence in the U.S. during the entire 2026–2027 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 2026–2027 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 (by a panel, commission or board) to a local, state, regional or national-level civic or educational organization approved by the state selection administrator, where the student holds a high-level, year-round leadership position representing a constituency and/or providing service to others
  - f. Commander or squadron leader of a JROTC unit

A student who graduates high school at the close of the fall 2026 semester/quarter is not eligible to apply for the program.

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## HOW TO QUALIFY (CONTINUED)

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**2. Member or 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). Positions that DO NOT meet the eligibility criteria include:**

- a. Attendance or officer position at Boys/Girls Nation or State, or Junior State conferences
- b. Member of a National Honor Society (serving as an elected officer for the organization for the entire school year is acceptable)
- c. Member or leader of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts or a sports team
- d. Founder or chairperson of a self-created group
- e. A participant, captain or officer in Mock Trial, Debate Team, Model UN, mock legislature or any other academic club
- f. Any conference or competition where the primary engagement is for individual educational benefit
- g. An internship, job or position that receives payment or a stipend

**3. RESIDENCY: Each student must be a legal permanent resident or citizen of the United States at the time of application.**

Students must be enrolled and attending classes for the entire academic year in a public or independent high school located in the state (or 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 be made only in the following cases:

- a. Military dependents from overseas military-connected schools will represent the state(s) of which the parents/guardians are U.S. legal voting residents. Military dependents attending schools in the U.S. must be residing in the state in which their school is located for the entire academic year.
- b. Students who are assigned to and attending public high school in a bordering state under a legal interstate agreement. Students shall apply through the state where the high school is located and shall represent that state if selected.

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## PROGRAM RULES

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**1.** All delegates must agree to fully block both arrival and departure travel days to participate in Washington Week.

All travel provided by The Hearst Foundations is round-trip only. Itineraries are built to reduce overall travel time by using most direct routes within these time frames:

**D.C. ARRIVAL:  
Saturday, March 6, 2027  
Between 6:00 AM and 5:00 PM Eastern**

**D.C. DEPARTURE:  
Saturday, March 13, 2027  
Between 5:00 AM and 9:00 AM Eastern**

- 2.** No individual or outside tours or trips will be permitted while traveling to and from Washington, D.C., or while in Washington, D.C. This policy applies to attendance at any other outside activity, conference, scholarship competition, individual or group athletic activities, college tours and events or appointments in or around the D.C. surrounding area during the USSYP Washington Week program time frame as outlined above.
- 3.** 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.
- 4.** The chief school officer from each state and jurisdiction must submit the names of the two delegates and two alternates in writing to The Hearst Foundations by December 1, 2026. Acceptance to the USSYP will be pending final confirmation of student qualifications.
- 5. Code of Conduct:** Delegates will be the guests of the United States Senate and The Hearst Foundations throughout the program 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. Cyberbullying and bullying of any kind will not be tolerated.
- 6.** The program requires each delegate to submit a statement of participation including a Code of Conduct and Health and Safety agreements to be signed by students and parents/legal guardians. All program rules apply to the group as a whole, defined as minors.
- 7.** No arrangements for individual religious practices or services other than dietary guidelines will be made. 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.
- 8.** Parents are not allowed to chaperone their child, and delegate roommates are designated by the program.

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## SCHOLARSHIP

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The Hearst Foundations believe it is in the public interest to encourage outstanding young people to continue their educational development. The \$12,500 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.

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## SCHOLARSHIP RULES

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- 1. The \$12,500 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 \$12,500 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 on the student's behalf. No funds may be given directly to a student or family. The scholarship will be issued in either one payment of \$12,500 or increments of \$6,250 or \$3,125.
- 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. Failure to abide by rules and requirements of the program and scholarship will result in dismissal from the program and forfeiture of the \$12,500 scholarship award. A student will automatically forfeit eligibility for the scholarship award for misconduct as a delegate.**

**Rules related to the USSYP and scholarship shall be construed, interpreted and applied by The Hearst Foundations, whose action and determination shall be final and binding.**

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. The Hearst Foundations must be notified in advance for an alternate delegate to replace a primary delegate unable to participate in Washington Week.



UNITED STATES SENATE  
★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★

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UNITED STATES SENATE RESOLUTION 324

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 State 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.

THE HEARST FOUNDATIONS

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