

State of Alaska  
United States Senate Youth Program  
Information and Application Form for School Year 2020-2021

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## Information

**Completed application packages will include all application materials**, and must be received by the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development before **4:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 6, 2021**.

Each set of application materials must include:

1. One official application form with the principal's **original signature in blue ink**;
2. One copy of a current, official academic transcript;
3. Two essays; and
4. Two letters of support.

More detailed information about each of these requirements can be found in the Application Requirements Checklist section below.

## Application Requirements Checklist

1. Official application form:
  - a. Completed form must be signed by your school principal in blue ink;
  - b. The **elected school leadership position** you are applying under must be clearly identified. Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, this position may have been in **either the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 academic years**. List **only** this position on the form.
  - c. **Each school may recommend only one candidate.**
2. Transcript:
  - a. Your current, **official** academic transcript and class rank **sent directly from your school registrar or principal to DEED**;
  - b. Transcripts must include the student's **non-weighted GPA**. This is non-negotiable. Transcripts that do not include a non-weighted GPA will be deemed ineligible. *DEED will not calculate non-weighted GPAs for students.*
3. Two essays:
  - a. A personal essay describing each of the following elements as they pertain to you:
    - i. Current position held, involvement in student government, and community service
    - ii. Activities and achievements that demonstrate leadership in school and community
    - iii. The personality trait that has been your greatest asset in leadership situations
    - iv. Your plans for the future
  - b. A persuasive essay researched and written by the applicant on a topic of social significance related to contemporary state, national or world events. Select a topic important to you, take a stand, relate its import to you, and defend your position. The essay will be judged on organization, ideas and content, evidence of personalization, and writing conventions including citation of sources.
  - c. Each essay must be titled, typed, double-spaced and not to exceed two pages with one-inch margins all around.

4. Short-answer question responses.
  - a. Answer **both** of the following questions:
    - i. *Define political activism for yourself personally. How do rules/laws/morals and values affect your own political activism? How do you judge whether your activism has been successful or not?*
    - ii. *Describe a turning point event in U.S. history before 1950 and offer your thoughts on the impact of that event on today's political climate.*
  - b. Responses should be no more than a single page, typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins all around.
5. Two Letters of Support:
  - a. One from the school principal or school counselor;
  - b. One from an adult advisor to the organization or student body entity that you represent as an elected official;
  - c. Send only the two requested letters.

All above items must be submitted with the application package. **Do not send extra materials. They will not be considered.**

## United States Senate Youth Program Descriptions

### USSYP Washington Week Program

The USSYP will hold Washington Week online from March 14-18, 2021. One hundred and four student delegates will follow an intensive schedule of meetings and briefings with senators, cabinet members, officials of the Departments of State and Defense, and representatives of the U.S. Supreme Court. This is a new format for USSYP in response to the current COVID-19 epidemic. Delegates will participate in interactive online policy addresses with senators, cabinet members, officials of the Departments of State and Defense, leaders of other federal agencies and senior members of the national media. Delegates traditionally participate in a meeting with a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and the president of the United States. Speaking events typically include in-depth question and answer sessions.

### USSYP College Scholarship

Each delegate who participates in the USSYP Washington Week will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship from The William Randolph Hearst Foundation, subject to the conditions and requirements specified in the program regulations. Additional information concerning the scholarship will be given to delegates by the Hearst Foundations after Washington Week. *Attendance during the full Washington Week program is required to receive the college scholarship.*

## Application Qualification Rules

A currently enrolled high school junior or senior student living in Alaska (irrespective of race, national origin, gender or financial need) is eligible for the program provided he or she has not previously been a program recipient, is now a permanent resident of the United States and has a parent or guardian legally residing in Alaska, will not graduate prior to the spring of 2021, and has been elected as a year-long representative to serve in any of the following **during either the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 academic years**:

- Student body president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer
- Class president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer

- Student council representative
- Student representative to a district, regional or state-level civic or education organization
- Student representative to a tribal government

For more information on qualifying positions, please refer to pages 2 and 3 of the 2021 USSYP brochure. Exceptions to the residency rule are made for Department of Defense Education Activity.

## Selection Process

The selection panel will assess indicators of leadership ability, high scholastic achievement, ability to think logically and communicate clearly, and community and school involvement. The top ten finalists may be asked to complete a civics examination and/or participate in a Skype interview during the selection process.

## Important Reminders

- Submit all complete application as a single Adobe Acrobat (.PDF) file. If you do not know how to do this, ask for help from a local source.
- Make sure any scanned pages are completely legible.
- Your principal's signature must be in blue ink on the application form.
- Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
- The letters of support **must accompany** the application.
- Have your registrar submit your official transcript as an encrypted .PDF file directly to the DEED program officer.
- Do not send photos or certificates or awards. No materials will be returned.

## Application Submission Address

Email your complete application to the DEED program officer: Bjørn Wolter ([bjorn.wolter@alaska.gov](mailto:bjorn.wolter@alaska.gov)). Make sure to put your name and program in the subject line.

# Official Alaska USSYP Student Application Form

## Student Data

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Gender:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Qualifying student government, civic, or educational position:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class Standing:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Permanent U.S. Resident?** \_\_\_\_\_

## Parent/Guardian(s) Data

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Day Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Alt. Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

## High School Data

**School Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **District:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

*As principal, I recommend this student as our school's nominee for the 2019-2020 United States Senate Youth Scholarship Program.*