



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Education
& Early Development**

DIVISION OF STUDENT LEARNING
US Senate Youth Program

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Dear parents, teachers, principals, and superintendents:

The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) has begun its statewide selection process. In March, two Alaskan students will join 104 other delegates for the program's 59th annual Washington Week—an online educational program about the workings of the Senate and the federal government overall. USSYP is sponsored by the US Senate and privately funded by The Hearst Foundation.

State delegates will have outstanding leadership abilities and a strong commitment to public service. They generally rank in the top one percent of their states academically. After Washington Week, delegates continue to excel and develop impressive qualities that are often directed toward public service. **Each state delegate will receive a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship, in addition to the all-expenses paid trip to the nation's capital.** The student delegates will visit Capitol Hill, the White House, the Pentagon, the State Department, the Supreme Court, and other historic sites in Washington. The agenda routinely includes meetings with Senators, the President, Cabinet Secretaries, a Justice of the Supreme Court, senior members of the national media, and other policy makers.

Due to the current COVID epidemic, the 59th Senate Youth Program Week will take place **virtually March 14th thru 18th** and state designees will be required to attend all days. The week will be planned and coordinated by the Hearst Foundation. It will include many specific functions and events, and free time during these days will be extremely limited. Applicants should take this under consideration when applying.

The delegate selection is administered by each state's chief school officer in cooperation with high school principals. Eligible delegates must be:

1. Current high school **juniors or seniors**
2. An **elected** student officer for the **entire** 2019-2020 **or** 2020-2021 academic years (*Please reference the 2021 brochure for a complete list of eligible positions.*)
3. Residents of Alaska

Each student must be a resident of the United States and currently enrolled in a public or private secondary school located in the state (including for these purposes the District of Columbia) in which either one of his or her parents or guardians legally resides. Exceptions to the residency rule are made for the Department of Defense Education Activity and for states with schools operating under interstate education compacts.

Following this announcement are the 2021 brochure, student application, and an essay on the experience by one of last year's delegates. Page 1 of the application includes a detailed checklist of required submission items. Please use this checklist to ensure your application is complete. Incomplete applications will **not** be considered.

The Alaska application deadline is **January 6, 2021, at 4pm.**

The candidate selection process is three part:

1. Students who submit complete applications will be initially ranked based on a rubric provided by the Hearst Foundation.
2. The top ten applicants will be invited to take the 2021 United State Senate Youth Program Public Affairs and History Exam. This is a proctored exam that will affect an applicant's total score and potential selection as a USSYP candidate.
3. After performance on the USSYP exam is factored in, the top five applicants may also be asked to sit for a Skype interview with the selection committee. Performance during this interview will affect the applicant's total score and potential selection as a USSYP candidate.

The names of students selected will be formally announced mid-February. For more information, interested students in Alaska should contact either their high school principal or myself via the contact information below. They may also access information via the DEED Scholarships & Recognition webpage at <https://education.alaska.gov/recognitionprograms/>

Sincerely,

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★ UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM ★

EDUCATION ★ LEADERSHIP ★ PUBLIC SERVICE

59TH ANNUAL WASHINGTON WEEK ONLINE

MARCH 14-18, 2021 • ussenateyouth.org



104 STUDENTS WILL BE SELECTED FOR A GOVERNMENT AND LEADERSHIP ONLINE EDUCATION PROGRAM AND WILL EACH RECEIVE A \$10,000 UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP WITH ENCOURAGEMENT TO PURSUE COURSEWORK IN HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE.

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 annually 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 fifty states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA)—for an intensive week-long education and leadership program. The program is merit-based and highly competitive.

Now in its fifty-ninth year, the program known as Washington Week 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 5,800, USSYP alumni serve the country in many ways. USSYP alumni have become leaders in government, law, business, education, journalism, the military, medicine, health care, higher education and many other fields. Alumni serve as elected and appointed officials at all levels of government, including two United States senators, 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.

THE PROGRAM

THE 59TH ANNUAL UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM WASHINGTON WEEK ONLINE WILL BE HELD SUNDAY, MARCH 14–THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021.

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.

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 February 5, 2021. 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 public affairs examination that may be used in the selection process. Applications may be obtained directly from the state-level selection administrator for each state. **Application deadline dates and processes vary by state.** All state contacts, websites and deadlines are accessible on the USSYP website homepage: www.ussenateyouth.org

HOW TO QUALIFY

Qualified high school juniors or seniors must show demonstrated leadership by serving in elected or appointed positions in which they actively represent a constituency in organizations related to student government, education, public affairs and community service.

For the 2021 Washington Week program, student government and other qualifying leadership positions held during the previous academic year (2019-2020) may allow a student to qualify for the 2021 program if typical student leadership elections or appointment opportunities are not available due to the coronavirus pandemic.

All student leadership positions must be verified and approved by the state selection administrator to qualify—see Rule 1 (a–e). Students must have served or be actively serving in qualified leadership positions, be enrolled in high school and living in the state (and for these purposes the District of Columbia) that they will represent for the entire 2020–2021 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 participate, The Hearst Foundations must be notified in advance.

Attendance during the entire formal time-frame of Washington Week ONLINE 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 participate in 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 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 academic years. **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 2020 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 2020-2021 academic year to participate.

1. Any high school junior or senior student is eligible for the program provided they have not received a USSYP scholarship. Qualifying positions include a high-level leadership position in any one of the following student government, civic or educational organizations:
 - 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 by the state selection administrator.

NOTE: Due to COVID-19, if typical election and appointment opportunities for student leadership offices are not being made available due to the pandemic, a student may qualify through previously held positions during the 2019-2020 academic year under rule 1 (a-e), subject to verification and the judgement of the state selection administrator.

2. **Participation or holding an officer position in academic clubs, educational competitions designed primarily for the student's personal development 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 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 JROTC
- 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, conference or competition where the primary engagement is for individual educational enrichment.

RESIDENCY: Each student must be a legal permanent resident or citizen of the United States at the time of application. Students who are not U.S. citizens must be in possession of their I-551 / "green card" at the time of application to be eligible to apply. 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.

PROGRAM RULES

1. Attending the entire Washington Week ONLINE public service and leadership program and the college scholarship are one, inseparable award. Attendance at all online program events is required and monitored.
2. All students must agree in writing to fully block the entire formal time frame of the online program to participate in Washington Week ONLINE.
3. No outside activities, schoolwork, appointments, meetings or other communications will be permitted to interrupt an individual delegate's full attendance of the program. This policy includes any other outside activity, class, conference, scholarship competition or event of another organization taking place during the Washington Week ONLINE.

WASHINGTON WEEK ONLINE Required Timeframe:

**Sunday, March 14, 2021
3:00–8:00 PM EST**

**Monday, March 15–Thursday, March 18, 2021
11:00 AM–7:00 PM EST**

4. The chief state school officer from each state, the District of Columbia and DoDEA must submit in writing to The Hearst Foundations by **February 5, 2021** 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.
5. **Code of Conduct:** Delegates will be the guests of the United States Senate and The Hearst Foundations throughout the online 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, whether in person or online.

6. 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.

SCHOLARSHIP RULES

1. The \$10,000 college scholarship and attendance at the Washington Week program are one, inseparable award. Delegates must attend all online meetings during Washington Week ONLINE in accordance with 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.



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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