

Dr. Michael Johnson
Commissioner

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Department of Education
and Early Development

Juneau, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Alaska Students Named to U.S. Senate Youth Program

JUNEAU – Avram Salzmann, a student at Homer High School in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, and Sadie Sands, a student at Dillingham Middle/High School in the Dillingham City School District, have been named as Alaska’s delegates to the [U.S. Senate Youth Program](#) by Alaska Education Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson.

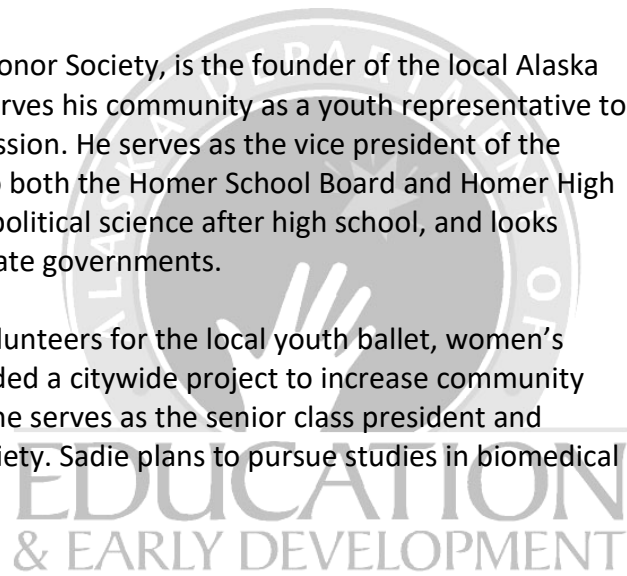
Delegates will spend a week in March in Washington, D.C., where they will attend meetings and briefings with senators, members of the House of Representatives, Congressional staff, the President, a justice of the Supreme Court, leaders of cabinet agencies, an ambassador to the United States, and senior members of the national media. Attendees will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship. The program was created by the U.S. Senate and is funded by The Hearst Foundations.

States also name alternate delegates, who serve if their primary delegates cannot attend Washington Week. Alaska’s alternates are Sahil Bathija, a student at Juneau Douglas High School in the Juneau School District, and Jasen Chaussé, a student at West Valley High School in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District.

“Congratulations to Avram, Sadie, Sahil, and Jasen,” said Commissioner Johnson. “I admire their community service and commitment to academic excellence. They are a credit to Alaska’s schools and families.”

Avram Salzmann is a member of the National Honor Society, is the founder of the local Alaska Youth for Environmental Action chapter, and serves his community as a youth representative to the Parks, Arts, Recreation, and Culture Commission. He serves as the vice president of the student body and the student representative to both the Homer School Board and Homer High School Site Council. Avram would like to study political science after high school, and looks forward to continuing to work with local and state governments.

Sadie Sands is active in the local theater and volunteers for the local youth ballet, women’s shelter, and community carnival. She spearheaded a citywide project to increase community recycling and support the local senior center. She serves as the senior class president and president of the Dillingham National Honor Society. Sadie plans to pursue studies in biomedical science after high school.



The U.S. Senate Youth Program recognizes high school juniors and seniors serving in student government who display outstanding leadership, academic achievement, community service, and the ability to read, write, and think clearly and effectively. The selection process is based on two essays, academic transcripts, college admission test scores, and two letters of recommendation.

Alaska students interested in applying for the 2020 program should visit www.ussenateyouth.org.

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