

# UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

53<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL WASHINGTON WEEK

WASHINGTON, D.C. ★ MARCH 7-14, 2015 ★



**SPONSORED BY THE UNITED STATES SENATE**  
FUNDED AND ADMINISTERED BY THE HEARST FOUNDATIONS

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## 104 STUDENTS WILL BE SELECTED FOR A WEEK-LONG GOVERNMENT AND LEADERSHIP EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL AND A ONE-TIME \$5,000 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP.

The United States Senate unanimously passed a resolution in 1962 creating the UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM, a national initiative to provide a yearly opportunity for talented young people with demonstrated leadership abilities to deepen their understanding of America's political processes and strengthen their resolve to pursue careers in public service.

The United States Senate Youth Program brings the highest-level officials from each branch of government together with an outstanding group of high school students— two high school juniors or seniors from each of the fifty states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA)— during an intensive week-long educational program held in Washington, D.C. The program is merit-based and highly competitive. Each student also receives a one-time \$5,000 undergraduate college scholarship with encouragement to pursue coursework in history and political science. Now in its fifty-third year, the program has been fully funded since inception by THE HEARST FOUNDATIONS as part of the Foundations' continuing commitment to preparing young people for citizenship and leadership in our participatory democracy. More than 5,000 strong, United States Senate Youth Program alumni go on to serve the country in many ways, often in senior national leadership positions.

### THE PROGRAM

#### THE 53<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM WILL BE HELD MARCH 7-14, 2015

The 104 student delegates will be immersed in Washington activities throughout the week. Delegates will hear major policy addresses by Senators, cabinet members, officials of the Departments of State and Defense and directors of federal agencies, as well as participate in a meeting with a Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Each session with elected officials includes an in-depth question and answer period.

The Hearst Foundations will pay all expenses for Washington Week, including transportation, hotel and meals (see numbers 3 and 4 under "Rules"). A registered nurse will be available to delegates at all times and a physician will be on immediate call throughout the week. The military services will provide specially selected men and women officers to serve as mentors for the student delegates while in Washington, D.C.

In addition to outstanding leadership abilities and a strong commitment to public service, the students generally rank academically in the top percentile of their states. They continue to excel and develop impressive qualities that are often directed toward public service. Among the many distinguished former program delegates are Senator Susan Collins of Maine, the first program delegate elected to the Senate; New Jersey Governor Christopher Christie; Congressman Cory Gardner of Colorado; former Chief Judge Robert Henry, U.S. Court of Appeals; former Ambassador to West Germany Richard Burt and former Presidential Advisors Thomas "Mack" McLarty and Karl Rove. Additional distinguished alumni are: former Lt. Governor of Idaho David Leroy, military officers, Foreign Service Officers, members of State Legislatures, top congressional staff, healthcare providers and university educators.

### HOW TO APPLY

Applications, generally made in late summer and early fall, may be obtained from high school principals, school counselors or the state-level selection contact. All state selection contacts and deadlines are listed on the USSYP website: [www.ussenateyouth.org](http://www.ussenateyouth.org). **Application deadline dates vary by state.**

### HOW TO QUALIFY

Two student delegates and a first and second alternate will be selected from each state and the District of Columbia by the Chief State School Officer in each state. The Hearst Foundations will provide \$1,000 to each state-level department of education to assist with the selection expenses for the program. In addition, The Hearst Foundations provide a rigorous public affairs examination that states may use as part of the selection process.

The office of the Department of Defense Education Activity will be responsible for the selection and confirmation of DoDEA delegates and alternates. Military dependents who reside and attend schools in the United States may apply for the program under the RESIDENCY ruling as 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 attend, The Hearst Foundations must be notified in advance. **Attendance during the Washington Week program is required to receive the financial scholarship;** appropriate disposition of scholarship funds will be determined by the Program Director in the event of health or other emergency in the immediate family precluding attendance at the program.

Selection will be based on the student's outstanding abilities and demonstrated qualities of leadership in an elected or appointed high school student office for the 2014-2015 school year. A student who graduates high school at the close of the fall 2014 semester/quarter is not eligible to apply for the program, and students must be residing in the U.S. during the 2015 spring semester to participate.

1. Any high school junior or senior student is eligible for the program provided he or she has not previously been a delegate to Washington Week and has not received a USSYP scholarship. The student is required to be **currently serving** in an elected or appointed capacity 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. Student representative elected or appointed (appointed by a panel, commission or board) to a district, regional or state-level



civic and/or educational organization approved by the state selection administrator.

- 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 at least one of his or her parents or guardians currently resides. A student attending a school which is located in a state other than the state of residence of either one of such student's parents or guardians is not eligible.

Exceptions to the residency requirement will only be made in the following cases:

- Students from Department of Defense Education Activity 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 will represent the state in which their school is located.
- 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 legally 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.

## RULES

- To participate in the program, students must be able to remain with the group throughout the entire program week. NO TOURS OR TRIPS WILL BE PERMITTED BY INDIVIDUAL DELEGATES WHILE TRAVELING TO OR FROM WASHINGTON, D.C. OR WHILE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THIS POLICY INCLUDES ANY OTHER OUTSIDE ACTIVITY, CONFERENCE, SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION OR EVENT OF ANOTHER ORGANIZATION WHICH IS CONDUCTED IN WASHINGTON, D.C. OR THE SURROUNDING AREA DURING THE TIME FRAME OF THE USSYP WASHINGTON WEEK. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE OTHER THAN FOR DOCUMENTED HEALTH EMERGENCY IN THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY.**

**All travel is scheduled within these time frames pending weather conditions and flight availability, no other exceptions. The program requires that students completely block both arrival and departure days to receive the travel benefit.**

**ARRIVAL D.C.:** Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> between 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM

**DEPARTURE D.C.:** Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> between 5:00 AM and 10:00 AM

- No arrangements for individual religious practices or services other than dietary guidelines will be made during Washington Week. This policy will be strictly observed from the time the student delegates arrive at the Washington area airports, train stations and program site until they return to their home sites.**

- The Chief State School Officer from each state, the District of Columbia and Department of Defense Education Activity must submit in writing to The Hearst Foundations by **DECEMBER 1, 2014** the names of their two delegates and alternates. Upon state confirmation of delegates and alternates, the program requires each delegate to submit a statement of participation to be signed by his or her parents or legal guardians. A full informational packet, including a copy of the rules and scholarship regulations and other pertinent information relating to the delegate's stay in Washington, D.C. will then be forwarded to each family.
- The Hearst Foundations will arrange transportation to and from Washington, D.C. It will be the responsibility of the parents or legal guardians to transport (at their expense) each delegate to and from the nearest commercial airport or train station to their hometown. The Department of Defense Education Activity will provide round-trip transportation for the DoDEA delegates from their homes to Washington, D.C.
- Each delegate will be the guest of the United States Senate throughout the program. Students are required to conduct themselves in such a manner as to be a credit to both the United States Senate and the United States Senate Youth Program.
- The program does not provide/allow for any individual or group athletic activities outside of the hotel facility.
- Rules related to the United States Senate Youth Program and scholarship awards 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 \$5,000 undergraduate college scholarship award is subject to the conditions and requirements specified in the adjoining rules.

Additional information concerning the scholarships will be provided to the delegates before their arrival in Washington, D.C. Certificates representing the award will be presented to the delegates during their visit to Washington, D.C.—often personally by their Senators.

## SCHOLARSHIP RULES

- The \$5,000 college scholarship and attendance at the Washington Week program are one, inseparable award.** Delegates must participate in the Washington Week program in order to receive the financial scholarship. If a selected student is unable to participate in the Washington Week program due to health or other emergency circumstances, merits of his or her reasons will be considered by the Program Director relative to scholarship awards.
- Students are required to enroll at an accredited United States college or university within two years after high school graduation. Scholarship funds may also be designated through an accredited United States college or university account for attendance at another accredited campus, institution or center. The student is encouraged to include history, political science or related subjects in his or her undergraduate program.
- Eligible students must complete the United States Senate Youth Program Application for Grant of Scholarship form, have it signed by the dean of admissions or registrar, affixed with the college or university's official seal, and provide the original forms to The Hearst Foundations.
- The \$5,000 scholarship is designated for the specified student's education expense and must be used within four years after enrollment. IRS rules do not permit The Hearst Foundations to legally give funds directly to a student. Scholarship funds are designated for tuition, enrollment fees or room and board—subject to approval by the college or university. Funds not utilized by the designated student after graduating from the college or university will revert to the attended college or university's general scholarship fund to be utilized at the discretion of the institution.
- The student must notify USSYP immediately if he or she does not intend to utilize the undergraduate scholarship funds within the four-year period. If college or university enrollment is delayed or enrollment is interrupted because of personal illness, family emergency or another approved reason, the student may seek an extension of the scholarship fund availability—subject to the USSYP Program Director's specific review and approval. USSYP must be notified by October 15 each year to determine whether the scholarship will be utilized or held; failure to do so will terminate the student's access to the funding.
- Students attending military academies (U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Coast Guard) may draw the USSYP Scholarship to purchase required military uniforms, books, computer equipment and other educational materials.
- A student will automatically forfeit eligibility for a scholarship award by failure to fulfill the above rules, or in the event of misconduct as a delegate to the United States Senate Youth Program.





UNITED STATES SENATE  
★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★

EDUCATION · LEADERSHIP · PUBLIC SERVICE

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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