



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Secondary School Principals

FROM: Stephen Armstrong
State Department of Education

DATE: October 1, 2020

SUBJECT: 2021 United States Senate Youth Program

The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) Washington Week will be held ONLINE Sunday, March 14, - Thursday, March 18, 2021. Two students from each state will be selected to attend the online program and each student will receive a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship. Students may qualify to apply through leadership positions they currently hold per the USSYP official criteria for the current 2020-2021 academic year. If students are unable to hold leadership positions this year due to the pandemic, they can submit the position they held during the 2019-2020 academic year. All student leadership qualifying positions are subject to the judgement of the state selection administrator and will be verified and confirmed.

Regulations for Eligibility and Selection

1. The student must be a secondary school junior or senior who has not previously been a delegate to this program and meets one or more of the criteria listed below for either the 2020-2021 OR 2019-2020 year:
 - a. Elected school organization officer (school wide organizations preferred).
 - b. Student representative (selected by a panel, commission, or board to district, regional, or state-level civic or educational organization).
 - c. Elected student officer of a statewide organization.
2. The student must be a permanent resident of the United States currently enrolled in a public or private secondary school located in the state in which either one of his or her parents or guardians legally resides.
3. The student must be interested in entering a public service profession or seeking public office in the future.
4. Only two candidates from each school may be nominated.
5. Each candidate must be endorsed by the high school principal.
6. Each student nominated must complete the STUDENT APPLICATION.
7. Each student nominated must provide an up-to-date resume (not to exceed 2 pages) that includes courses taken and grades from the last two school years, achievements, extra/co-curricular activities, offices held, and community, church or service organizations/activities.
8. Each nominated student must submit two one-page essays,
 - Essay 1: (Note: the USSYP is designed for students who aspire to enter careers in public service.)
Describe the area of public service profession you wish to enter and provide specific reasons why you are committed to this area of public service
 - Essay 2: **Describe a specific activity or event where you have provided “difference-making” measurable leadership.**

2021 United States Senate Youth Program

Selection Process & Checklist

- Once selected and endorsed by the secondary school principal, the student will complete the:
Student Application
Two one-page essays; and
Resume (see specifics stated previously for content to be included).
- Applications must be received by no later than **Friday, November 13, 2020**.
- Return the completed Youth Senate application, essay and resume package to:
Nicole A. Janusz
Social Studies Intern
Connecticut State Department of Education
nicole.janusz@my.ccsu.edu
- After the review of all submitted applications, 10-15 finalists will be selected for the Finalist Interview Session, which is to be held virtually.
- The school principal will be contacted by telephone and E-mail should a student from a school be selected as a finalist. No communication relative to finalist selection will be sent to a student. All communication will be sent to the school principal, or designee.
- The Final Interview Session for the USSYP will be conducted **virtually** the week of **December 14, 2020**.
- The names of the two nominated students and two alternatives (if either of the top two nominees is unable to comply with regulations) will be announced within two weeks of the interview session.
- No student will be considered unless all information has been submitted by the deadline (November 13).

If you have any questions, please call Mr. Armstrong at (860) 878-1941 or email, stephen.armstrong@ct.gov

Sincerely yours,

Stephen Armstrong

Stephen Armstrong
Academic Office
Connecticut State Department of Education

2020 – 2021 STUDENT APPLICATION
United States Senate Youth Program
and Hearst Foundation Scholarship

DATES & DEADLINES

Each school may submit only two candidates who meet the following criteria:

- Must be currently a grade 11 or 12 student;
- Must be a Connecticut resident;
- Must be a permanent resident of the United States;
- Must have served (2019-2020) or is currently serving (2020-2021) in a leadership role (elected/appointed) in a school, community, or statewide organization;
- Has an expressed desire/intention to enter a public service profession or seek elective public office in the future.
- Completed applications must be **received no later than Friday, November 13, 2020.**
- IF CHOSEN AS A FINALIST, candidates must participate in the mandatory Finalist Interviews the week of **December 14, 2020**, which will take place virtually.
- If selected, the student MUST attend the entire **virtual** Youth Senate Program week, **March 14-18, 2021.**

Print or type all information

Student name: _____
 First Middle Last

Home Address: _____
 Street Town/City State Zip

Home Telephone: _____ Age: _____ Gender: _____ YEAR (Sr/Jr) 20-21 school year: _____

Name of High School: _____

Name of Principal: _____

Principal's Telephone (and extension): _____ Principal E-mail: _____

Complete Address of School: _____

Names of Parents/Guardians: _____

Submit with this Application:

STUDENT RESUME – Provide an up-to-date resume (not to exceed 2 pages) that includes courses taken and grades from the last two school years, achievements, extra/co-curricular activities, officers held, and community, church or service organizations/activities.

Two one-page essays – see the instructions page!

Student Attestation.

I understand the requirements of the United States Senate Youth Program and Hearst Foundation Scholarship. If selected as a finalist, I will attend the virtual Finalist Interview Session the week of December 14, 2020.

Signature of Student

Note: After the review of all applications, 15-20 finalists will be selected for interviews. The high school principal will be contacted by telephone & E-mail if a student from a school has been selected as a finalist.