

2027 United States Senate Youth Program State Application Template



2027 United States Senate Youth Program (State) Department of Education Student Application Form

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Check box for Public High School / Private High School (any school other than public)

Name of High School District, Name of High School Attending, School Phone, full address.

Principal's Name, email and phone

Note here: Student must be attending high school in the state where at least one parent/guardian resides for the entire school year.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Student's Legal First, Middle, Last Name and Preferred Name. Full mailing address.

Email, home phone, cell phone

Birthdate, Age, Grade, Gender (Male/Female)

Note here: Applicants must be U.S. citizens or have permanent residency at the time of application.

☐ YES, I am a U.S. citizen

☐ NO, I am not a U.S. citizen, but I am a permanent resident in possession of my official Green Card at the time of this application. Having applied for a Green Card, but not in possession, means you cannot apply for USSYP.

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Parent/Guardian 1 full name with prefix. Phone - cell/home, Email and home address

Parent/Guardian 2 full name with prefix. Phone - cell/home, Email and home address

Mark the ELECTED/APPOINTED office you now hold for the entire 2025-2026 school year in one of the following student government, civic, or educational organizations.

☐ Student Body President ☐ Class President

☐ Student Body Vice President ☐ Class Vice President

☐ Student Body Secretary ☐ Class Secretary

☐ Student Body Treasurer ☐ Class Treasurer

☐ Student Council Representative

☐ Officer in a National Honor Society chapter

☐ 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 whose primary purpose is public / community service and constituent representation. Such positions will be subject to approval by the state selection administrator.

The positions listed below DO NOT qualify the student for the program:

- Attendance or officer position at Boys/Girls Nation or State summer conference
- General member of a National Honor Society (serving as an elected officer is acceptable)
- Member or leader of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts or a sports team
- 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, mock legislature, conference or competition where the primary engagement is for individual educational benefit.

What is your qualifying position if not student a body or Honor Society officer:

What do you do to serve your community and support your constituency year around in this position:

What is your rank in scholastic standing of your class?

☐ Upper 1% ☐ Upper 5% ☐ Upper 10% ☐ Upper 15% ☐ Upper 25 % ☐ Other

The principal's signature here certifies the percentage.

Signature

Print Name

Date

WRITTEN APPLICATION ESSAYS: Note instructions here if an online application note box will expand to accommodate or ask for a Word document attachment with the answers to these questions with a word limit of 500 words or less per response (or no more than 3 pages) noting single or double spacing and font desired, with ability to upload documents:

1. **Submit a personal essay describing each of the following elements as they pertain to you:**
 - Current elected student position held and all past involvement in student government/leadership;
 - Activities and achievements that demonstrate leadership in school and community that specifically supports your desire to serve as your USSYP State delegate;
 - Involvement in community service initiatives or programs outside of school;
 - How your participation in USSYP will enhance your understanding and interest in the political and governmental process of the United States;
 - Share ways in which you think being chosen for the U.S. Senate Youth Program will help you explore some of the most important questions you have at present about the challenges facing the country.
2. **Submit a persuasive essay researched and written on a topic of social significance related to a contemporary state, national, or world event.** Select a topic important to you, take a stand, relate its import to you, and defend your position. The essay will be judged on original ideas and content, organization, evidence of personalization, and writing conventions *including citation of sources*.

VIDEO PRESENTATION FOR APPLICATION SUBMISSION:

Note: Public speaking is a core component of the USSYP. Each student applicant should prepare a short video presentation, no more than 3 minutes in length, as part of the 2027 application, to be judged for eloquence, vocabulary, originality, organization of presentation, knowledge of any material or content presented, clarity of artwork (charts, graphs, slides if used) and overall presentation.

Video Essay: Please submit a video presentation of no more than 3 minutes in length on this topic:

Imagine that you are a newly elected Senator from (STATE). Describe who you are, why you are proud to represent (STATE). Tell us the personal characteristics you feel will make you an effective leader in Washington. Note what legislative initiatives you will champion and why they are important to you and your constituents. Please note any historical leadership figures you would like to emulate.

UPLOAD VIDEO HERE:

REQUIRED: Parents or guardians must sign below to approve for you to go to Washington, D.C., for a week to attend the United States Senate Youth Program under the conditions set forth in the rules and regulations of the USSYP program brochure you'll find by clicking ussenateyouth.org/selection_process_brochure/

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION and CONFIRMATION

Date (MM/DD/YY)

1st Parent's/Guardian's Name

1st Parent's/Guardian's Signature (REQUIRED) Sole guardian yes/no?

2nd Parent's/Guardian's Name

2nd Parent's/Guardian's Signature (REQUIRED)

PRINCIPAL CONFIRMATION

In addition to my letter of recommendation, I verify this student is holding the leadership position noted and is endorsed to represent our school and state if chosen:

Principal's Name Principal's Signature (REQUIRED)

Date (MM/DD/YY) Principal's Email

Date (MM/DD/YY) Qualifying Position Organization Leader or Counselor's Name Counselor's Signature (REQUIRED) and email

Note Checklist of all application materials here AND note deadline for all materials: note that materials received after midnight on application date will be automatically declined for submission for the 2026 program.

- Completed personal information on application
- Official academic transcript with non-weighted GPA
- 2 Letters of support, one from High School Principal and one from an adult advisor to the organization or student body entity that they represent. - confirming the student's leadership position, their leadership qualities and personal attributes
- REQUIRED TWO ESSAYS – *Instructions on how to submit typed, font size double/single spaced and length*
- Video Essay submission
- Signatures of Principal and parents

State focused essay question suggestions for inclusion in state applications

- Imagine that you have recently been elected as one of the youngest members of the (State name) legislature. What would be the first bill you would introduce? Describe the provisions of your bill and why this initiative is your top priority.
- Discuss any of the most recent Supreme Court rulings for the term just completed and how you feel the rulings will affect your state.
- As a student leader in (State), what do you see as the greatest areas for improvement in the education system, and what ideas would you propose to create better dialogue and understanding among various student groups?
- If you had the opportunity to be the CEO of an important company in (State) what company would that be and how would your leadership benefit the state?
- If you became a U.S. Senator for (State) what Senate Committees would you most want to be assigned to and why? What personal qualities would you bring to the job as Senator that would benefit (State).
- Discuss the work of any non-profit organization in (State) that you have been involved with and describe why you think the organization's mission is important.
- Choose a historical figure from (State), discuss why knowledge of this person is important for all (State citizens) and discuss the impact this one person has had on (State) history.
- Is there an important historical figure from (State) that you feel has been underrepresented in high school history curriculum? Describe this figure's contribution to our nation's (or our state's) history and why it would be important to raise awareness about them now.