

USSYP Recognition PROGRAM HONOREES

Selected U.S. Senate Youth delegates attend Washington Week - an intensive week of unparalleled educational activities designed to deepen the student's understanding of the federal government and give them direct access to those who lead it. Delegates receive a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship following participation in Washington Week through the Hearst Foundation.



2024 Georgia Delegates
Jackson Bost - Madison County
Viveka Mehrotra - Oconee County

About Excellence Recognition Programs

The GaDOE Excellence Recognition Programs honors outstanding educators, schools, staff, and students throughout the state.

Find additional opportunities at:
<http://bit.ly/Excellence-Recognition>

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USSYP Scholarship Rules NATIONAL GUIDANCE

1. Delegates receive a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship provided by the Hearst Foundation. Delegates are required to fully participate in all Washington Week program activities, 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.
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 are provided directly to students.

APPLY TODAY!

Find the United States Senate Youth Program full requirements, application, and verification forms at:
www.gadoe.org/USSYP



United States Senate Youth Program



UNITED STATES SENATE
★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★

EDUCATION • LEADERSHIP • PUBLIC SERVICE • RESPECT

USSYP Program Purpose

EDUCATE FUTURE LEADERS

The U.S. Senate Youth Program, established in 1962 by U.S. Senate Resolution, is an esteemed educational initiative offering high school juniors and seniors an opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge of the American political process. Every year, two students from each state are selected as delegates and participate in Washington Week.

2025 USSYP Timeline

KEY DATES AND MILESTONES

Application Window: **August 12-September 30**

Application Deadline: **September 30 at 5:00 p.m.**

Delegates Selected: **Early December**

USSYP Core Requirements

PROGRAM QUALIFICATIONS

Any high school junior or senior student is eligible for the program provided they have not previously been a delegate to Washington Week, have not received a USSYP scholarship, and meet the following program criteria:

- Currently serve in a **high-level elected or appointed leadership position** in a student government, civic or educational organization representing a constituency during the entire 2024–2025 academic year.
- Must be a legal permanent resident or citizen of the U.S. at the time of application.
- Be enrolled for the entire 2024-2025 academic year in a public or private high school in Georgia.
- At least one parent or guardian is required to be a Georgia resident.
- Must attend all Washington Week events in person to serve as a delegate and receive the scholarship. **The 63rd Annual Washington Week is March 1-8, 2025.**

Appointing Georgia's Delegates

SELECTION PROCESS

Application Review: A panel of education leaders reviews applications according to the program criteria.

Finalist Interviews: Interviews will be held at the Georgia Department of Education in Atlanta in November.

Selection Notifications: Delegates, alternates, and remaining applicants are notified in December.

USSYP Verification Forms

APPLICATION REQUIREMENT

Students are responsible for obtaining signatures from their principal, counselor, and parent/guardian. Verification forms are found on the USSYP webpage at www.gadoe.org/USSYP.

USSYP Student Essays

APPLICATION REQUIREMENT

Essays 1 and 2 are limited to a 250-word maximum with a 100-word minimum requirement. The persuasive essay has a 500-word maximum with a 200-word minimum requirement.

1. Describe your current elected or appointed student leadership position. What impact has your role had on your school or community? In what ways has your experience as a student leader cultivated a strong sense of civic responsibility?
2. Describe your involvement in civic community service initiatives or programs outside of your school. 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 about the challenges facing the country.
3. 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 importance to you, and defend your position. The essay will be judged on organization, ideas and content, evidence of personalization, and writing conventions including citation of sources.

USSYP Recommendations

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Students are to submit **two letters of recommendation exclusively written for USSYP** - one from a current teacher and one from another adult representative of an organization or activity where the student has a record of leadership and service to others and/or where the student is currently holding a qualifying leadership position for USSYP.

USSYP Leadership Positions

PROGRAM REQUIREMENT

Students must hold one of the following elected or appointed positions for the entire current school year:

- Class/Student Body President
- Class/Student Body Vice President
- Class/Student Body Secretary
- Class/Student Body Treasurer
- Student Council Representative
- National Honor Society Officer
- JROTC Officer/Cadet Corps Commanders
- Student representative elected or appointed to a civic or educational organization whose main purpose is public or community service and constituent representation approved by the state selection administrator.

Non-eligible leadership positions

Students participating or holding an officer position in academic clubs, educational programs, or organizations designed primarily for the student's personal development **DO NOT** qualify the student for the USSYP, including but not limited to the following:

- Attendance or officer position at Boys/Girls Nation or State summer conference
- Member of the National Honor Society
- 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 U.N. or other academic clubs, mock legislature, conference, or competition
- A general JROTC cadet