



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

TO: Local School Superintendents
Senior High School Principals/Counselors
Nonpublic Schools Headmasters/Principals
Local School System Points of Contact

FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D. *KBS*
State Superintendent of Schools

DATE: August 17, 2018

SUBJECT: 2019 United States Senate Youth Program

The Maryland State Department of Education is pleased to announce an opportunity for two Maryland students to participate in the 2019 United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP). Each year, two students from every state and the District of Columbia are selected to attend a week-long government and leadership program in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. This program, now in its 57th year, is fully funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. The USSYP has an excellent reputation for providing outstanding student leaders a unique experience in understanding our nation's political process. The one-week program provides an opportunity for students to meet with legislative, executive, and judicial leaders to discuss political issues that affect our nation. Each participant also receives a one-time \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship with encouragement to pursue coursework in history and political science.

The attached guidelines outline the process that will be used to nominate two students to represent Maryland. Please make every effort to give all eligible students an opportunity to participate. Please mail all nominations by Friday, September 21, 2018 to:

Michele Moore
Youth Development Branch
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street/4th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
Phone: (410) 767-0358

Nomination forms may also be scanned and emailed to Ms. Moore at ussyp2019.msde@maryland.gov. If you need additional information, please contact Christy Thompson, Division Executive Director, Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Education Policy by email at christy.thompson@maryland.gov or by phone at (410) 767-0275.

Enclosures

2018-2019 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

OBJECTIVE

The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP), funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, is sanctioned by the United States Senate under the authority of Senate Resolution 324, passed by unanimous vote on April 16, 1962.

The program was developed for outstanding high school student leaders interested in political science. The objective of the program is to provide these students with an opportunity to observe and converse with elected and appointed government officials at the national level.

PROGRAM FORMAT

The State Superintendent of Schools, in accordance with the rules outlined below, selects two elected high school students. The selected students will receive an all-expense-paid one-week trip to Washington, D.C. Two alternates will also be selected to replace primary delegates in the event that they are unable to participate in the program. The program will be conducted during the week of March 2-9, 2019. Plans are being made to have students meet with their State senators, members of the cabinet, and other government leaders. Students will also tour many of Washington's historic landmarks.

SCHOLARSHIP

A \$10,000 scholarship, subject to the conditions and requirements established by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, will be awarded to each student participating in the program. Additional information concerning the scholarship will be provided to each delegate upon their arrival in Washington.

ELIGIBILITY RULES

1. High school juniors or seniors currently serving in any of the following elected or appointed positions during school year 2018-2019 are eligible for nomination:
 - 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 local, district, regional or state-level civic, service and/or educational organization approved by the state selection administrator

Note: Students serving in elected or appointed positions not mentioned above are not eligible to participate. If the student council or class organization of a school has an elected or appointed position that is not listed in 'a' or 'b' above, an explanation of the position must be attached. Any high school junior or senior student who has been a delegate to Washington Week and received an USSYP scholarship is not eligible to participate.

2. Participation in academic clubs and/or educational competition programs or conferences does not qualify a student for the USSYP, although many students who qualify participate in programs of this nature. The positions listed below do NOT qualify the student for the program:
 - a. Attendance or officer position at Boys/Girls Nation/State summer conference
 - b. Member of the National Honor Society (serving as an elected officer for the organization for the entire school year is acceptable)
 - c. A founder or chair of a self-created group
 - d. A participant or officer in Mock Trial, Model U.N., or other academic club, conference or competition
3. Students must be permanent residents of the United States and currently enrolled in a public or nonpublic secondary school in the state in which either one of his or her parents/guardians legally resides. A student attending a school in a state other than the student's state of legal residence of either of the student's parents/guardians is also not eligible. (For exemptions refer to the brochure under *How to Qualify #3*)
4. All students, regardless of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, disability, or sexual orientation are eligible for selection as long as they are currently serving in an elected position as outlined in #1 above.

NOMINATIONS

Each principal may nominate one eligible student. The following suggestions may be helpful in conducting the process at the school level:

- Assign one person to coordinate the initiative and serve as a contact person;
- Disseminate information about the program by using all channels of communication;
- Ask teachers to encourage eligible students to participate;
- Use a screening process to select a nominee. The Hearst Foundation advises that the selection be based on a demonstration of leadership ability, high scholastic standing, demonstrated ability to achieve, clear speech, logical thought processes, and community involvement with participation in a wide selection of activities on and off campus. Nominees should also have a strong knowledge of, and interest in, government studies and public service; and
- Ensure that the nominee meets the eligibility requirements. Schools who nominate ineligible students will forfeit their eligibility to participate in the program.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

1. Using the attached form, mail or email the school's nomination to:

Michele Moore
Youth Development Branch
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street/4th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
Phone: (410) 767-0358
Email: ussyp2019.msde@maryland.gov

2. If you have any questions regarding the nomination form, please contact Michele Moore by email at michele.moore@maryland.gov or by phone at (410) 767-0358.
3. Nomination forms by email must be received at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) by 1:00 p.m. on Friday, September 21, 2018. ***All nominations must be postmarked no later than Thursday, September 20, 2018.*** Please consider time needed for the forms to arrive by U.S. mail.
3. Qualifying students will be notified by email to the students' email address with information regarding exam location and time from ussyp2019.msde@maryland.gov by Thursday, October 11, 2018.
4. The exam will be administered by MSDE staff members at various locations that will be sent via email to the student. (*Students can only take the exam once.*)
5. The top ten scoring students on the qualifying exam will be notified on or before Friday, November 2, 2018 of their selection to participate in the interview process.
6. The top ten scoring students will be interviewed by a panel of MSDE staff during the week of November 12-16, 2018. The interview panel will select two delegates and two alternates to represent Maryland in the program.
7. The State Superintendent of Schools will provide the names of the two selected students and two alternates to the Hearst Foundation. The Hearst Foundation will notify the student delegates and two alternate delegates, of their selection by mid-December. The MSDE cannot release the names of selected students until after the students are notified by the Hearst Foundation.

****The exam will consist of selected response and constructed response questions. The questions will reflect many of the current political issues and significant individuals in state and federal government. Students should also have knowledge about the Constitution, government structure, and congressional, presidential, and judicial responsibilities. Students will be expected to apply their knowledge of government and analyze government issues. It may be helpful to review weekly news publications and government/civics textbooks.***

**2018-2019 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM
STATE OF MARYLAND SCHOOL NOMINATION FORM**

Name of Nominee (include middle name): _____

Address: _____

Parents' name(s): _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

Grade: _____ Male/Female _____ Student Cell Phone Number _____

Local School System: _____

School: _____

School Address: _____

School Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Nominee's elected position (*check one*):

Student council/student body:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Representative

Class of 2018 or Class of 2019

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Print Name of Principal: _____

Signature of Principal: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Submit this nomination form and enclose activities resume.
2. Submit letter of recommendation from the advisor of the activity in which the student holds an *elected position*.
3. Submit an **official** academic transcript.
4. Submit a one minute video on the following topic: What personality trait that you possess has been the biggest asset to you in leadership situations?
5. Qualifying participants will be notified by October 11, 2018 and will be scheduled to take a government-based current events test.
6. Ten semifinalists will be interviewed in Baltimore on Tuesday, November 13, 2018. Candidates who are not notified by November 5th can assume that they have not been selected as a Senate Youth state semifinalist.

RULES

1. Only **ONE** applicant can be accepted from each Maryland secondary school.
2. The student must hold an elected office in student council, class government, or civic or educational organization. (Officers and representatives are included.)
3. The student must be a member of the junior or senior class during the 2018-2019 academic year and a resident of Maryland.
4. **All nominations must be postmarked no later than Thursday, September 20, 2018. Nominations must be sent to Michele Moore, Youth Development Branch, Maryland State Department of Education, 200 West Baltimore Street 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21201, phone (410) 767-0358 or email to ussyp2019.msde@maryland.gov by Friday, September 21, 2018 no later than 1:00 p.m.**
5. Questions related to the nomination process or scholarship eligibility, please email Christy Thompson at christy.thompson@maryland.gov or call (410) 767-0275.

**2018-2019 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM
STATE OF MARYLAND**

To apply for consideration in Maryland, a student **must be selected by his/her principal as the school nominee**. The student must be a junior or senior and must hold an **elected** position in student council or class government. The student must complete the nomination form, the activities resume, and submit a letter of recommendation from his/her activity advisor, a copy of his/her official academic transcript, and no longer than 250-words essay on a significant leadership trait.

2019 SENATE YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP ACTIVITIES RESUME

GRADE LEVEL

ACTIVITY OR ORGANIZATION	GRADE LEVEL				POSITION OR OFFICE
	9	10	11	12	

COMMUNITY SERVICE	GRADE LEVEL				DUTIES OR OFFICE
	9	10	11	12	

RECOGNITION OR AWARDS	GRADE LEVEL				DESCRIPTION
	9	10	11	12	

NOMINATION FORM MUST BE POSTMARKED BY SEPTEMBER 20, 2018