



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

TO: Local School Superintendents
Heads of Nonpublic Schools

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

DATE: October 2, 2020

SUBJECT: 2021 United States Senate Youth Program

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is pleased to announce an opportunity for two Maryland students to participate in the 2021 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 59th 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 disseminate this guidance to all high school principals to ensure eligible students have an opportunity to participate.

Nomination forms may also be scanned and emailed to Ms. Michele 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 Educational Policy by email at christy.thompson@maryland.gov or by phone at (410) 767-0275.

Enclosures

Cc: Senior High School Principals/Counselors
Local School System Points of Contact

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 participate in a Washington **Online** week of activities Sunday, March 14 through Thursday March 18, 2021.

Two alternates will also be selected to replace primary delegates in the event that they are unable to participate in the program. The Washington **Online** week of activities will be conducted during the week of March 14, 2021. Plans are being made to have students meet with their State senators, members of the cabinet, and other government leaders.

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. Students may qualify to apply through leadership positions they currently hold per the USSYP official criteria for the current 2020-2021 academic year, OR if students are unable to hold leadership positions this year due to the pandemic, they can submit a qualifying position held during the 2019-2020 academic year. All student leadership positions are subject to the judgement and verification of the state selection administrators.
 - 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; and
 - 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 nomination form, email the school's nomination to:

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 and a one-minute MP3 videos by email must be received at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) by Monday, November 2, 2020 no later than 1:00 p.m.**
4. The top ten scoring students will be notified by email to the students' email address on or before Monday, November 16, 2020, of their selection to participate in the interview process, time and ZOOM information from ussyp2019.msde@maryland.gov.
5. The top ten scoring students will be interviewed by a panel of MSDE staff on Wednesday, December 2, 2020. The interview panel will select two delegates and two alternates to represent Maryland in the program.
6. 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 end of February 2021. The MSDE cannot release the names of selected students until after the students are notified by the Hearst Foundation.

**2020-2021 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM
STATE OF MARYLAND SCHOOL NOMINATION FORM**

Name of Nominee (include middle name): _____

Local School System/County Name: _____

School Name: _____ Grade: _____

School Address: _____

School Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Home Address: _____

Parents' name(s): _____

Parents' Cell Phone: _____ Parents' Email: _____

Male/Female: _____ Student Email: _____

Citizen or permanent resident of the United States: Yes No

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

Student council/student body (Class of 2021 or 2022):

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Class of 2021 or Class of 2022

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Representative

Print Name of Principal: _____ Signature of Principal: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Submit this nomination form and enclose activities form.
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 by November 2, 2020 in the format of mp3 on the following topic: How would you monitor the performance of the people you have to lead/supervise in order for projects to be successful?
5. Ten semifinalists will be interviewed using ZOOM on Wednesday, December 2, 2020. Candidates who are not notified by November 17th 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 2020-2021 academic year and a resident of Maryland.
4. **Nominations must be sent to Maryland State Department of Education, by email to ussyp2019.msde@maryland.gov by Monday, November 2, 2020 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.

**2020-2021 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 form, submit a letter of recommendation from his/her activity advisor, and a copy of his/her official academic transcript.

2021 SENATE YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP ACTIVITIES FORM

GRADE LEVEL

ACTIVITY OR ORGANIZATION	9	10	11	12	POSITION OR OFFICE

COMMUNITY SERVICE	9	10	11	12	DUTIES OR OFFICE

RECOGNITION OR AWARDS	9	10	11	12	DESCRIPTION

**NOMINATION FORM MUST BE EMAIL TO ussyp2019.msde@maryland.gov
BY MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2020 NO LATER THAN 1:00 P.M.**