



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

**Subject: Message #186: United States Senate Youth Program
Scholarship Opportunity**

Date: October 5, 2020

To: ccss@list.state.ar.us

**From: Arkansas Department of Education Division of Elementary and Secondary
Education Curriculum Support Unit**

Dear Arkansas Educators,

The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) was established in 1962 as a national nonpartisan initiative to provide an annual opportunity for talented high school students with demonstrated leadership abilities to deepen their understanding of America's political processes and strengthen their resolve to pursue careers in public service.

Now, in its fifty-ninth year, the USSYP annually brings the highest-level officials from each branch of government to meet with this outstanding group of young leaders. Two high school juniors or seniors from each of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) will come together for an intensive week-long education and leadership program - Washington Week - hosted online. In addition to the online program, students receive a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship. The program is merit-based and highly competitive. Students must attend the Washington Week online program - March 14-18, 2021 - to receive the financial scholarship.

Numbering more than 5,800, USSYP alumni have become leaders in government, law, business, education, journalism, the military, medicine, health care, higher education, and many other fields. Applicants must be juniors or seniors interested in government, political science, and public service and must currently hold an elective office in a student government, civic, or educational organization. If students are unable to hold leadership positions this year due to the pandemic, qualifying positions held during the 2019-2020 academic year can be submitted. All student leadership positions are subject to the judgement and verification of a state selection committee.

APPLICATIONS must be clearly POSTMARKED no later than December 4, 2020. Applicants who are unable to mail the application should contact Melissa Starkey at (501) 682-6584 or Melissa.Starkey@Arkansas.gov for assistance.

A selection committee comprised of Arkansas Department of Education officials, educators, and other experts in the field will screen all eligible applicants and make recommendations to the Arkansas Secretary of Education. Selection is based on outstanding ability and demonstrated qualities of leadership. Complete rules and information about eligibility are contained in the attached brochure. If you have questions regarding this scholarship opportunity, please contact Melissa Starkey, USSYP State Coordinator, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, at (501) 682-6584 or by email at Melissa.Starkey@Arkansas.gov.

Additional information and applications are available on the DESE website at:

<http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-support/humanities/social-studies/social-studies-programs-and-opportunities/united-states-senate-youth-program>

For general program information, please visit the United States Senate Youth Program website <http://www.ussenateyouth.org>.

Please share this information with others that might be interested. Thank you for serving the students of Arkansas.

To be added to the DESE Educator ListServ please send your name, e-mail address, and district name to ADE.CandI@arkansas.gov.

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