



Each applicant must meet the following criteria:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be a United States citizen or have permanent residency in the United States at the time of application. Having applied for an official Green Card (but not currently in possession) does not meet the USSYP eligibility requirements.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Currently enrolled in an accredited Arkansas public or private high school or, if homeschooled, belonging to a homeschool association located in Arkansas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be a high school junior or senior and not previously a USSYP delegate to Washington Week or program scholarship recipient (Note: a student graduating high school in the fall semester of 2025 is not eligible)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Currently serving in an ELECTED/APPOINTED office you now hold for the entire 2025-2026 school year in any one of the following student government, civic, or educational organizations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Student Body President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer ○ Class President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer ○ Student Council Representative ○ Officer in National Honor Society (such as discipline-based Honor Societies, i.e., National English and Social Studies Honor Societies that include service components) ○ Commander or squadron leader of any service branch JROTC ○ A student representative, elected or appointed to a civic, service, or educational organization at the local, district, regional, or state level, whose primary purpose is public service and constituent representation ○ If homeschooled, state the name of the organization and the elected office, and briefly summarize the election process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Please note that participation in or holding an officer position in academic clubs and/or educational competition programs/conferences designed primarily for the student's personal development or enrichment <u>DO NOT</u> qualify a student for the USSYP, although many students who qualify participate in these activities <p>The positions listed below <u>DO NOT</u> qualify the student for the program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Attendance or officer position at Boys/Girls Nation or State summer conferences ○ 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 a Mock Trial, Debate Team, Model UN, or other academic club, mock legislature, conference, or competition where the primary engagement is for individual educational benefit ○ See USSYP Selection Process - How to Qualify for more information

Each application must meet the following guidelines:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contain a legible postmark no later than Friday, October 10, 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2026 AR USSYP Application Form, signed by the applicant, parent(s)/guardian(s), and principal. If homeschooled, the signature of the director/coordinator of the student's local homeschool association
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Include an official high school transcript from the public or private high school attended, or if home-schooled, from the curriculum provider or homeschool association <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All transcripts must contain the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Current cumulative GPA ■ ACT and/or SAT scores ■ Class rank ■ Current class schedule (even though no grade has been determined) ○ If homeschooled, class rank does not apply, but a student must provide a written description of how grades are assessed for courses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Include the four required documents. See Application Formatting Guidelines for 2026 for more detailed information: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resume of Current Scholastic Accomplishments, Activities, and Interests 2. Summary of Community Service Activities 3. Statement of Future Aspirations 4. Written Essay 5. Principal Letter of Recommendation

Attendance during the Washington Week program (March 7-14, 2026), in person, is required to receive the financial scholarship

If you cannot mail your application, obtain the school principal's signature, are unable to obtain a copy of your official transcript, or have questions about the program and the application process, please contact **Ronda Smith** at (501) 682-7816 or ronda.smith@ade.arkansas.gov