



Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

Eligibility Rules and Requirements

Each applicant must meet the following criteria:

- Must be a legal permanent resident or citizen of the United States at the time of application. Students who are not U.S. citizens must be in possession of their I-551/ "Green card" at the time of application to be eligible to apply.
- Currently enrolled in an accredited public or private high school or, if home-schooled, currently belonging to a home school association or the Education Alliance group, located in the state (Arkansas) in which either one of his/her parents or guardians legally resides
- High school junior or senior – Any high school junior or senior is eligible for the program provided he or she has not previously been a delegate to Washington Week and has not received a USSYP scholarship. A student who graduates from high school at the close of the fall 2021 semester/quarter is not eligible to apply for the program.
- **Currently serving** in an elected or selected capacity in any one of the following student government, civic, or educational organizations:
 - Student Body president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer
 - Class president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer
 - Student Council representative
 - National Honor Society officer
 - Student representative elected or appointed (appointed by a panel, commission, or board) to a **district, regional, or state-level** civic and/or educational organization approved by the state selection administrator
 - an elected or appointed leader in a state or community organization
 - If home-schooled, an elected officer or student representative to a **district, regional, state-level, or national** civic or educational organization. State the name of the organization, the elected office, and briefly summarize the election process.

Note: Participation or holding an officer position in academic clubs, and/or educational competition programs/conferences designed primarily for the student's personal development do not qualify a student for the USSYP; see [USSYP Brochure](#) "How to Qualify".

Each student application must meet the following required guidelines:

- Contain a **legible postmark** no later than Friday, October 8, 2021
- Include an **official high school transcript** from the public or private high school attended, or if home-schooled, from the curriculum provider
 - All transcripts must contain the following information:
 - **current cumulative GPA,**
 - **ACT and/or SAT scores,**
 - **class rank,**
 - **courses in which student is currently enrolled** (even though no grade has been determined)
 - If home-schooled, the student must provide a written description of how grades are assessed for courses and what or who determines the curriculum in said courses.
- Include the signature of the school principal, or if home-schooled, contain the signature and a letter of recommendation from an elected official, minister, or other public servant who will recommend the student for this scholarship
- Include a resume with an outline of applicable scholastic accomplishments and interests appropriate for this scholarship (Selection will be based on the student's outstanding abilities and demonstrated qualities of leadership.)
- Include an essay (Remember, this essay is the first impression you will make on the selection committee. **Have the essay proofread** by an appropriate teacher or counselor for errors in grammar, mechanics, etc., and make the suggested revisions.)

Students applying for the USSYP should be interested and participating in leadership, public service, and government related activities. **Attendance during the Washington Week program (March 5-12, 2022) is required in order to receive the financial scholarship. Due to COVID-19, plans are subject to change. Please check <https://ussenateyouth.org/> for the latest program updates.**

If for some reason you cannot mail your application, obtain the school principal's signature, or are unable to obtain a copy of your official transcript, please contact Amber Pirnique at (501) 682-5764 or Amber.Pirnique@ade.Arkansas.gov for assistance.