

Below is information regarding the 2021 United States Senate Youth Program. Please read the details carefully, as some requirements have changed in response to Covid-19 health concerns.



205 Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 480 • Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480 • dese.mo.gov

September 15, 2020

Good Day,

The United States Senate Youth Program was created in 1962 by United States Senate Resolution and is financed by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. The scholarship program is designed to encourage elected high school student leaders across the nation to “deepen their interest in and understanding of their country's political processes.”

This year, two Missouri high school students will be selected to participate in the U.S. Senate Youth Program for 2021. Each of our Missouri winners will participate in a virtual Washington D.C. week and will also receive a \$10,000 scholarship award.

The week of intense study provides delegates with an introduction into the work and functions of the U.S. Senate in particular and of the federal government in general. This year, due to health concerns, the Washington week will be a virtual experience. Students will be required to completely block the timeframe of the program and attend all online events in order to serve as delegates and to receive the scholarship. The full timeframe of the program is yet to be determined, but it will take place over the course of 2 – 4 days, the week of March 15, 2021.

See more details about the national program and scholarship at <http://ussenateyouth.org/>.

Candidates must be nominated by their high school principal. Schools may use any fair, appropriate procedure to select **one** candidate per high school. Following are the requirements for eligibility set by the Hearst Foundation:

- The nominee must be a junior or senior who has not served previously as one of Missouri’s program delegates.
- The nominee must serve in an **elected** capacity in one of the following offices which represents a constituency:
 - (a) Student body president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer
 - (b) Class president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer
 - (c) Student council representative
 - (d) Student representative to a district, regional, or state-level civic or educational organization
- Student leadership positions held during the 2019 – 2020 academic year will be allowed to qualify students for 2021, if they are unable to hold the usual USSYP qualifying positions for the current academic year due to disruption caused by the pandemic.
- The nominee must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States.

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- The nominee must be currently enrolled in a Missouri public or private secondary school located in the state in which either one of his or her parents or guardians legally resides.

Application materials are available at

<http://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/curriculum/social-studies/social-studies-related-links/senate-youth-program>

Completed applications are due no later than 11:59 p.m. on October 22, 2020.

If you have questions, please contact Dixie J. Grupe, Social Studies Director, at dixie.grupe@dese.mo.gov or 573-751-0398