



Application Process and Requirements for the State of Oregon: 2021-22

What is the United States Senate Youth Program?

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) administers the [United States Senate Youth Program \(USSYP\)](#) for the State of Oregon. The U.S. Senate Youth Program is an annual scholarship competition funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation and endorsed by the U.S. Senate. Each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity select two high school juniors or seniors to participate in the program. This year, the **delegates will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship** and attend an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., on March 5-12, 2022 (the Hearst Foundation is planning for in-person programming in Washington, D.C., pending public health and safety guidance for travel and indoor gatherings). **Two alternates will receive a \$200 cash award from ODE.**

What are the eligibility requirements?

High school juniors or seniors **must be nominated** by their high school principal or designated school official in order to be considered for the USSYP. Principals and designated school officials may nominate:

- One student for 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A schools; or
- Two students for 5A and 6A schools.

Nominated high school juniors or seniors must show demonstrated leadership through public service in elected or appointed positions in student government, civic or educational organizations. Students must be actively serving in qualified leadership positions for the entire 2021-22 academic year ([see brochure for eligible organizations](#)).

Additionally, nominated students must be permanent residents of the United States and currently enrolled in an Oregon public or private secondary school. Attendance during the Washington Week program is required to receive the financial scholarship. For additional information regarding the program rules, please review the [USSYP Official Rules website](#).

How does the principal select the school's nominee(s)?

Principals take sole responsibility for the selection of the student nominee(s). Some principals delegate that authority to a head counselor or other appropriate staff member. Others conduct a selection process which includes a small committee.

What are the responsibilities of a principal or designated school official?

The responsibilities of a principal or designated school official are:

1. To review the rules for student participation listed in the [U.S. Senate Youth Brochure](#);
2. Develop a process for selection of a nominee(s) from the school;
3. Publicize the process within the school; and
4. Through the selection process, determine the candidate(s) to apply.

What are the required materials nominated students must submit in the application packet?

1. The online application form will be available on [Oregon's USSYP website](#) in August 2021.
2. The online application requires:
 - **A resume** including any received awards, recognition and leadership activities in student government/politics, community, music, sports and other extracurricular activities.
 - **A cover letter** describing the following:
 - How you further equity in the community through your leadership position(s).
 - What interests you about the U.S. Senate Youth Program.
 - What they hope to gain from the U.S. Senate Youth Program.
 - **An essay of one thousand words** or less responding to one of the essay topics provided on [Oregon's USSYP website](#) (essay topics to be posted in August 2021). The essays should be formatted with 12-point font, one-inch margins and double spacing. A works cited page can be included and will not count as part of the three-page maximum.
 - A letter of recommendation specific to this program, not to exceed one page in length. The letter may be written by anyone the student selects.
 - A statement of the specific process used to determine the school's nominee, as publicized within the school. This statement must be written on official school stationery.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

How do students apply for the USSYP and what is the application deadline?

Nominated students can apply via an online form which will be available on Oregon's USSYP website in August 2021. Completed applications must be submitted online no later than 5 pm on Friday, October 15th, 2021.

How are Oregon's student delegates and alternates selected?

A selection committee from the Department will review all of the qualifying applications. The selection committee will invite four to six candidates for an interview (TBD if the interview will be virtual or in- person) in November 2021. After the interviews are conducted, the committee will select two delegates to represent Oregon, and a first and second alternate. The delegates and alternates will be announced in December.

Selection is based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated leadership qualities through public service in elected or appointed positions in organizations that relate to student government, civics or education;
- Involvement in school and community activities;
- Commitment to furthering equity in their community;
- High academic achievement;
- Knowledge of U.S. government and history;
- The quality of the application, including the ability to write with clarity and express ideas in an organized and original fashion; and
- Excellent interpersonal and speaking skills.

Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

If you have any questions regarding the United States Senate Youth Program for Oregon, please e-mail Amit.Kobrowski@state.or.us.