



USSYP Application Process and Requirements for the State of Oregon:

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 2-9, 2024 (the Hearst Foundation is planning for in-person programming in Washington, D.C., pending public health and safety guidance for travel and indoor gatherings).

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 2023-24 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 selecting the student nominee(s). Some principals delegate that authority to a head counselor or other appropriate staff member. Others conduct a selection process that 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 the 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 2023.

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 do you further equity in the community through your leadership position(s)
- What interests you about the U.S. Senate Youth Program
- What you hope to gain from the U.S. Senate Youth Program

- **An essay of six hundred to one thousand words** responding to one of the essay topics provided on Oregon's USSYP website (essay topics to be posted in August 2023). The essays should be formatted with 12-point font, one-inch margins, and double spacing. Citation endnotes can be included and will not count as part of the three-page maximum.
- **Video presentation:** Public speaking is a core component of the USSYP. Each student applicant should prepare a short video presentation, no more than 3 minutes in length, as part of the 2024 application, to be judged for public speaking skill, vocabulary, originality, organization of presentation, knowledge of any material or content presented, clarity of artwork (charts, graphs, slides if used) and overall presentation.
- **Video presentation topic and instructions:** Please submit a video presentation of no more than 3 minutes in length on this topic: *Imagine that you are a newly elected Senator from Oregon. Describe who you are and why you are proud to represent Oregon. Tell us the personal characteristics you feel will make you an effective leader in Washington. Note what legislative initiatives you will champion and why they are important to you and your constituents. Please note any historical leadership figures you would like to emulate.*
- **A letter of recommendation** specific to this program, not to exceed one page. The letter may be written by anyone the student selects with knowledge of the student's activities.
- **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 2023. Completed applications must be submitted online no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, October 13th, 2023.