

Office of Career and College Readiness

Two Louisiana juniors or seniors will be chosen to attend the 64th annual U.S. Senate Youth Program (USSYP) in Washington, D.C. during the week of March 7-14, 2026. Upon completion of all on-site events, these two delegates will each receive a \$10,000 scholarship. Juniors or seniors may qualify to apply through leadership positions they hold during the 2025-2026 school year, per the USSYP official criteria.

All student leadership-qualifying positions are subject to the judgment of the state selection administrator and will be verified and confirmed. Students nominated by their principals must submit an [application](#) and a portfolio of required [USSYP official criteria](#) information to the Louisiana Department of Education by **the extended deadline of Friday, October 10, by 11:59 p.m.**

State Guidelines for Nominating Students

- The principal of any public or private school may recommend up to three students.
- The [application](#) will send a request for the essay topics, as this information is considered test-secure.

United States Senate Youth Program Requirements

- Juniors or seniors who have been elected or appointed to a student government, civic, or educational organization (campus student government officer or representative), class officer, appointment to a local, district, or state panel, commission, or board, or National Honor Society officer may apply. Students may qualify to apply through leadership positions they currently hold, per the [USSYP official criteria](#) for the current 2025-2026 academic year, and must actively serve in a qualified leadership position(s) for the entire academic year.
- The student must be enrolled in a public, nonpublic, or homeschooled secondary school in the state in which their parent or guardian resides for the entire 2025-2026 academic year.
- The student(s) must be a permanent resident or citizen of the United States or have an official green card in their possession at the time of the application.
- Students must be able to attend all on-site sessions of the Annual Washington Week program from March 7-14, 2026. The Hearst Foundation will determine if the event will be held online or in person.

Submission Information

- The name(s) of the students nominated and their application portfolios must be received electronically no later than **the extended deadline of Friday, October 10, at 11:59 p.m.** via the [U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship application](#).

Use the link provided to complete the student's application

Each document is to be submitted individually in the appropriate dropbox. Each document should be in Arial font style, 12-point font size, and double-spaced.

- The demographic information about the student, school, and parents, including the electronic parental signature
- Parental PII Release Form
- Principal's letter of recommendation
- Sponsor/Teacher Leader letter of recommendation
- School elective offices and honors (1-2 pages)
- Transcript of high school/college coursework
- Academic achievements (1-2 pages)
- School and Extracurricular activities (1-2 pages)
- Citizenship and community involvement (1-2 pages)
- Description of hobbies, college, and career plans (1-2 pages)
- The completed essay will be written according to the guidelines provided to the school official who will proctor the timed essay (essay topics will only be released to a school official)
- An affirmation statement from the principal or faculty indicating that the student did not have early access to the topics, used no external resources, and followed the time parameter

United States Senate Youth State Timeline

August-September

The [scholarship application](#) is currently available. Information about the scholarship, [application link](#), and [brochure](#) will be placed in the School System newsletters, notifying schools and school systems of the competition and relevant deadlines.

August-September

High schools select their nominee(s), assist with the compilation of the portfolios, and proctor the essay that must be typed using Arial font style, 12-point font size, and double-spaced, then uploaded via the [U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship application](#).

October 10, 2025 (Deadline Extended)

Deadline for electronic submission of the application via the [U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship application](#).

October 20, 2025

The top four portfolio submissions will be notified by email, inviting them to complete the national examination and individual interview.

November 6, 2025

Finalists complete the national examination and individual interview at the Claiborne Building, 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

December 1, 2025

Names of the two delegates and two alternates will be submitted to the Hearst Foundation.

December 2025

Delegates and alternates will be notified of approval by the Hearst Foundation.

March 7-14, 2026

U.S. Senate Youth Washington Week is held in Washington, D.C.

If you have any questions, please contact stephanie.marcum@la.gov.