

STATE OF ALASKA

Department of Education & Early Development

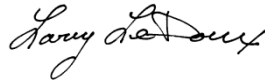
Office of the Commissioner

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

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To: Superintendents
High School Principals
High School Counselors

From: Larry LeDoux, Commissioner



Date: September 3, 2010

Subject: United States Senate Youth Program for High School Juniors and Seniors

Two outstanding Alaska high school students will soon have an opportunity to visit our nation's capital to observe the federal government in action and to receive a \$5,000 college scholarship as part of the 49th United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP). Established unanimously by the U.S. Senate in 1962 and sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, the USSYP is a unique leadership program for student government delegates from each state, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense.

During the week of March 5-12, 2011, student delegates will visit the White House and tour historic sites, monuments, and museums as part of the USSYP's Washington Week. They will also attend meetings with Senators, Cabinet members, representatives of the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as with other government officials.

The program in Alaska is open to qualified high school juniors and seniors now serving as an elected or appointed representative in student government or as a student representative to a civic or educational organization. The principal of each participating school is requested to select **no more than one** candidate for statewide competition. *Students should carefully review the application package and include all required elements.* The application is also available at the EED website at <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/forms/home.cfm>. In the "Section" box use the drop down menu and select "Scholarships." You may also be interested in visiting the USSYP website at www.ussenateyouth.org.

For information contact: Jessica Paris, Program Manager
Phone: (907) 465-8716
Email: jessica.paris@alaska.gov

Attachment

State of Alaska
2011 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM
Official Student Application Form for School Year 2010-2011

An original application, signed by the principal, and four copies of the entire application package must be received by the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development before 4:30 p.m., Friday, October 29, 2010. Participating schools may recommend one candidate only.

Student Data					
Name:		Age:		Gender:	
Address:					
City		State:		Zip:	
Email Address:					
Home Phone:		Cell:			
Elected Class Office or Student Government/ Council Position:					
Class standing:	<input type="checkbox"/> Junior	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior	Class rank:		Class size:
Parent/Guardian(s) Data					
Name(s):					
Address:					
City:		State:		Zip:	
Email Address:					
Work/Day Phone:		Cell:			
High School Data					
School Name:		District:			
Principal Name:					
Address:					
City:		State:		Zip:	
Email Address:		Phone:			

Application requirements include the following: this application form; a copy of a current academic transcript; PSAT, SAT, or ACT test scores; two essays; and a letter of support from either the school principal or the school counselor. The items required for submissions are described in greater detail in the Application Requirements section of this document.

The scholarship will be awarded on a competitive basis upon evidence of the following:

1. Leadership qualities;
2. High scholastic standing and ability to achieve;
3. Ability to read, write, and think clearly and effectively; and
4. Community service, volunteerism, and school involvement.

As principal, I recommend the student listed above as our school's nominee for the 2010-2011 United States Senate Youth Scholarship Program.

Signature of High School Principal

Date

United States Senate Youth Program Descriptions

USSYP Washington Week Program

The USSYP will be held in Washington, D.C., March 5-12, 2011. One hundred and four student delegates will follow an intensive schedule of meetings and briefings with Senators, Cabinet members, officials of the Departments of State and Defense, and representatives of the U.S. Supreme Court. Delegates will visit the White House and tour historic sites, monuments and museums in our nation's capital. The Hearst Foundations will pay all expenses for the Washington Week Program including transportation, hotel, and meals.

USSYP College Scholarship

The William Randolph Hearst Foundation will make available to each delegate who participates in the USSYP Washington Week a \$5,000 college scholarship award, subject to the conditions and requirements specified in the program regulations. Additional information concerning the scholarship will be given to delegates upon their arrival in Washington. Attendance during the Washington Week program is required to receive the college scholarship.

APPLICANT QUALIFICATION RULES:

A currently enrolled high school junior or senior student living in Alaska (irrespective of race, national origin, gender or financial need) is eligible for the program provided he or she has not previously been a program recipient, is now a permanent resident of the United States and has a parent or guardian legally residing in Alaska, will not graduate prior to the spring of 2011, and serves in any one of the following student government offices:

- Student body president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer;
- Class president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer;
- Student council representative;
- Student representative to a district, regional or state-level civic or educational organization.

Exceptions to the residency rule are made for Department of Defense Education Activity.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST:

- Official Application form (page 2 of this document):** Completed form must be signed by your school principal. Each school may recommend only one candidate.
- Transcript:** Copy of a current, official academic transcript that includes cumulative unweighted GPA and class rank. If only weighted GPA is available, provide information as to how weighted GPA is calculated.
- Test scores:** Copy of PSAT, SAT and/or ACT test scores (may be included on transcript).
- Two essays:** Each essay must be titled, typed, double-spaced and not exceed two pages.
 1. A student essay written by the applicant describing each of the following elements:
 - a. Your involvement in student government and community service;
 - b. Activities and achievements that demonstrate leadership in school and community; and
 - c. The personality trait that has been your greatest asset in leadership situations.
 2. A persuasive essay researched and written by the applicant on a topic of social significance related to contemporary state, national or world events. Select a topic important to you, take a stand, and defend your position. The essay will be judged on organization, ideas and content, evidence of personalization, and writing conventions.
- Letter of Support:** A letter of support by either the school principal or a school counselor **must** be submitted with the application package.

SELECTION PROCESS:

In reviewing applications, the selection panel will assess indicators of leadership ability, high scholastic achievement, ability to think logically and communicate clearly, and community and school involvement.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- **An original application form, signed by the principal, and four copies of the entire application package must be physically received by the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development on or before 4:30 p.m., Friday, October 29, 2010.**
 - **Facsimiles or e-mails will not be accepted. Late applications will not be considered.**
 - **It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all required elements are included in the submitted application package. Incomplete applications will not be considered for review.**
 - **A letter of support from the high school principal or school counselor MUST accompany the application.**
 - **Please do not send photos or original certificates or awards. No materials will be returned.**
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Submit the complete application package to:

United States Senate Youth Program
Attn: Katy Gutschmidt, Office Assistant II
Alaska Department of Education & Early Development
801 West 10th Street, Suite 200
PO Box 110500
Juneau, AK 99811-0500