

To: Superintendents
High School Principals

From: Michael Hanley, Commissioner

Date: August 12, 2013

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

Two outstanding Alaska high school students will have an opportunity to receive an all-expense-paid trip to visit our nation's capital to observe the federal government in action. The two students will also receive a \$5,000 college scholarship as part of the 50th United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP). Established by the U.S. Senate in 1962 and sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, the USSYP is a unique leadership program for student delegates from each state, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense.

During the week of March 8-15, 2014, student delegates will visit the White House and tour historic sites 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 elected or appointed to currently serve as a 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://education.alaska.gov/forms/home.cfm>. In the "Section" box use the drop down menu and select "Scholarships." You may visit the USSYP website at www.usenateyouth.org.

Additional Award Opportunity

Separate from the USSYP, The United States Department of Education (USDOE) - Commission on Presidential Scholars is expanding its program and requests each state to nominate up to six high school seniors (three male and three female) to be invited to apply for the U.S. Presidential Scholars program. EED will submit the names of the top six seniors (outside of the two USSYP top two candidates) to USDOE. USDOE will invite these individuals directly and will include application instructions.

For information contact: Shari Paul, Program Coordinator
Phone: (907) 465-6535
Email: shari.paul@alaska.gov

Attachment

State of Alaska
2013/14 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM
Official Student Application Form for School Year 2013-2014

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 25, 2013. Participating schools may recommend one candidate only.

Student Data					
Name:		Age:		Gender:	
Address:					
City:		AK		Zip:	
Email Address:					
Home Phone:		Cell:			
Current student government, civic or educational position:					
Class standing:	<input type="checkbox"/> Junior <input type="checkbox"/> Senior				
Parent/Guardian(s) Data					
Name(s):					
Address:					
City:		AK		Zip:	
Email Address:					
Work/Day Phone:		Cell:			
High School Data					
School Name:		School District:			
Principal Name:					
Address:					
City:		AK		Zip:	
Email Address:		Phone:			

Application requirements must include: Application form with the principal's *original* signature; a copy of a current academic transcript; a copy of official PSAT, SAT, or ACT test scores; *two* essays; and a letter of support from the school principal or school counselor, and a letter of support from an adult supervisor of the organization or student body entity from which the student represents. 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 think logically and communicate clearly;
4. Community service, volunteerism, and/or school involvement; and
5. (new) Possible Skype interview with the top four candidates.

As principal, I recommend the student listed above as our school's nominee for the 2013-2014 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 8-15, 2014. 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 Foundation will pay all expenses for the Washington Week Program including transportation, hotel, and meals.

USSYP College Scholarship

Each delegate who participates in the USSYP Washington Week will receive a \$5,000 college scholarship from The William Randolph Hearst Foundation, 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 2014, and has been elected or appointed to currently serve in any one of the following:

- 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 education 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 and class rank. **If only weighted GPA is available, provide information as to how weighted GPA is calculated.**
- Test scores:** Copy of official 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 current position held and 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.
- Two Letters of Support:** One from the school principal or school counselor, and one from an adult advisor to the organization or student body entity that you represent.

All above items 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. Finalists may be asked to participate in a Skype interview during the selection process.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- **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 25, 2013. One of the four application packages must contain the original signature of the principal—the other three can be photocopied and simply stapled – no binders necessary.**
 - **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.**
 - **The letters of support MUST accompany the application.**
 - **Please do not send photos or certificates or awards. No materials will be returned.**
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Submit the complete application package to:

United States Senate Youth Program
Attn: Shari Paul, Program Coordinator
Alaska Department of Education & Early Development
801 West 10th Street, Suite 200
PO Box 110500
Juneau, AK 99811-0500

Additional Award Opportunity

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