



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: USSYP@hearstfdn.org
Program Director: Wendy Wilk 202-826-9194

THE 2027 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM APPLICATION SEASON OPENS

Two outstanding high school students from each state are selected for the premier leadership educational program and will receive a \$12,500 college scholarship.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – August 17, 2026 – The [United States Senate Youth Program](https://ussyp.hearstfdn.org) (USSYP) is pleased to announce state departments of education nationwide are accepting applications for the **65th annual Washington Week to be held March 6 – 13, 2027.**

104 students, two from each state, the District of Columbia, and two students attending military-connected high schools overseas, will be chosen as delegates for the week-long education, leadership, and public service program. The program is designed to deepen their understanding of the political process and strengthen their resolve to pursue careers in public service, through meetings with their U.S. Senators, the President, Cabinet Secretaries, a Justice of the Supreme Court, senior members of the national media and other key policymakers. Each delegate will also receive a \$12,500 undergraduate college scholarship given in the name of the United States Senate, with encouragement to pursue studies in history, government, and public affairs.

2027 USSYP Senate Co-Chairs Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia said: ***“We look forward to welcoming our next generation of leaders to the United States Senate Youth Program. This week in Washington will be an indelible step in their path of public service. We know the week of civic engagement and civil discourse will help guide their commitment to their communities and their country.”*** Both Senator Murkowski and Senator Kaine will hold keynote events with the delegates during Washington Week.

The full 2027 USSYP Senate Advisory Committee includes the Vice President of the United States and the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders who annually serve as the program’s Honorary Co-Chairs, and an eight-member bipartisan Senate panel, four Senators from each party, who lend their names in support. Serving on the 2027 USSYP Senate Advisory Committee are: Senator John Boozman of Arkansas, Senator Ted Budd of North Carolina, Senator Kevin Cramer of North Dakota, Senator James Lankford of Oklahoma, Senator Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, Senator Mazie Hirono of Hawaii, Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock of Georgia and Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts.

The delegate selection is administered by each state’s chief school officer in cooperation with high school principals. Applicants must be juniors or seniors, serving as elected or appointed officers in student government or other school-based organizations for the 2026 - 2027 academic year. Students must reside in the state where they attend school to qualify. For more information about eligibility, application procedures and deadlines, students should contact their high school principal or school counselor. Applicants may also visit ussenateyouth.org for state specific applications, deadlines and more information about the USSYP.

The United States Senate Youth Program is a competitive, merit-based program created by Senate Resolution 324 in 1962. Military officers who serve as elite chaperones and mentors to the student delegates throughout the week are competitively selected through the Office of the Secretary of Defense, representing one of the longest-standing partnerships between a national youth program and the Department of Defense.

USSYP alumni now number more than 6,400 and many go on to build legacies of public service, including Senator Susan Collins of Maine, former Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, and former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie.

[The Hearst Foundations](https://www.hearst.org/foundation) have fully funded and administered the program since inception.
No public funds are utilized.
