



SOUTH DAKOTA APPLICATION FORM

COMPLETE APPLICATION IN ITS ENTIRETY – PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

QUALIFICATIONS

Must show demonstrated leadership by serving in elected or appointed positions in which they are actively representing or previously represented a constituency in organizations related to student government, education, public affairs, and community service.

Must be actively serving in qualified leadership positions, enrolled in high school, and living in the state that they will represent for the entire 2026– 2027 academic year.

All student leadership positions are subject to the judgment and verification of the state selection administrators.

STUDENT PERSONAL INFORMATION

STUDENT'S NAME:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE:

BIRTH DATE:

AGE:

EMAIL:

STUDENT A RESIDENT IN THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA: ☐ YES ☐ NO

STUDENT IS ENROLLED FOR THE ENTIRE ACADEMIC YEAR IN A HIGH SCHOOL. IN SOUTH DAKOTA: ☐ YES ☐ NO

AT LEAST ONE PARENT/GUARDIAN IS A CURRENT RESIDENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA: ☐ YES ☐ NO

STUDENT IS A LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AT THE TIME OF THE APPLICATION: ☐ YES ☐ NO

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME

ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

PHONE:

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME

ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

PHONE:

SCHOOL INFORMATION

HIGH SCHOOL:

TYPE OF SCHOOL: ☐ PUBLIC ☐ PRIVATE

SCHOOL ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP CODE:

SCHOOL PHONE:

PRINCIPAL'S NAME:

EMAIL:

PHONE:

STUDENT'S GRADUATION YEAR: ☐ 2027 ☐ 2028

STUDENT'S HIGH SCHOOL CLASS RANK:

STUDENT'S NON-WEIGHTED GPA:

CURRENT LEADERSHIP POSITION(S) HELD FOR 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR:

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

RECOMMENDATION LETTER FROM A MENTOR, EMPLOYER OR ADULT ADVISOR ☐ INCLUDED / ATTACHED

ACCEDEMIC RECOMMENDATION LETTER FROM A TEACHER, COUSELOR OR PRINCIPAL ☐ INCLUDED / ATTACHED

HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT ☐ INCLUDED / ATTACHED

COPY OF ACT SCORE (if available) ☐ INCLUDED / ATTACHED

PERSONAL ESSAY ☐ INCLUDED / ATTACHED

PERSONAL ESSAY

ESSAY RESPONSE MUST INCLUDE EACH OF THE FOUR REQUIRED ELEMENTS:

EXTRACURRICULAR AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES: 1-2 paragraphs describing activities and achievements that demonstrate leadership in school and community. Describe how this involvement specifically supports your desire to serve as your USSYP State delegate.

FUTURE GOALS: 1-2 paragraphs clearly explaining your future educational and career goals. Describe how your participation in USSYP will enhance your understanding and interest in the political and governmental process of the State of South Dakota, the United States of America, and how it will impact your future educational and career path.

STATEMENT OF INTEREST: 1 -2 paragraphs sharing ways you believe being chosen for the USSYP will expand your questions about the challenges facing your state and country.

CURRENT EVENTS: Select a state, national, or world political topic which holds personal interest and importance. Clearly describe the current and potential issues associated with the topic, necessary steps to be taken to enact political change, how this change will impact the citizens of South Dakota, and what your role in this change may be in the future because of your participation in USSYP.

ESSAY QUESTION EVALUATION

The personal essay will be evaluated based upon:

1. Organization
2. Evidence of Personalization
3. Alignment to Required Elements
4. Adherence to Writing Conventions

REQUIRED SIGNATURES

STUDENT SIGNATURE:

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE:

PRINCIPAL SIGNATURE:

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 2nd, 2026

APPLICATION AND ATTACHMENTS MUST BE EMAILED TO Melissa.Bothun@state.sd.us by OCTOBER 2nd, 2026.

Question may be directed to:

Melissa Bothun
Department of Education
Melissa.Bothun@state.sd.us
605-295-0433

