



2025 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STUDENT APPLICATION



Part I of VI

Contact Information

Full Name: _____	ACT or SAT Test Score: _____
Date of Birth: _____	Graduating Class: _____
Home Address: _____	Home Phone: _____
	Cell Phone: _____
	Email Address: _____
	(Use an email address that is regularly monitored.)

Note: Applicants must be U.S. citizens or have permanent residency at the time of application.

- Yes, I am a U.S. citizen.
- No, I am not a U.S. citizen, but I am a permanent resident in possession of my official Green Card at the time of this application. Having applied for a Green Card, but not in possession, means you cannot apply for USSYP.

Parent/Guardian Information

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
_____	_____
Home/Cell Phone: _____	Home/Cell Phone: _____
Email: _____	Email: _____

High School Information

**Note: Student must be attending high school and reside with at least one parent/guardian in Alabama for the entire school year. For additional information, visit the USSYP's How to Apply webpage here: https://ussenateyouth.org/selection_process_qualify/.*

Name of School: _____

School Address: _____ School Phone: _____

Principal/Head of School: _____ Principal/Head of School Email Address: _____

School Counselor: _____ Counselor Email Address: _____

Part II of VI

Qualifying Elected/Appointed Leadership Position

The USSYP requires that all nominated students are:

- currently serving in an elected or appointed position in organizations that relate to government, public affairs, history, and/or community service.
- serving a constituency as part of their regular duties in that position.
- serving in that position during the entire 2024-2025 school year.

All student leadership qualifying positions are subject to the judgment of the state selection administrator and will be verified. Keep in mind that being the founder or chairperson of a self-created club or organization **does not** qualify the student for the program. For additional information, visit the USSYP's *How to Apply* webpage here: https://ussenateyouth.org/selection_process_qualify/.

Check the elected/appointed office you now hold for the entire 2024-2025 school year in one of the following student government, civic, or educational organizations:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Body President | <input type="checkbox"/> Class President |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Body Vice President | <input type="checkbox"/> Class Vice President |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Body Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> Class Secretary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Body Treasurer | <input type="checkbox"/> Class Treasurer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Council Representative | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Officer in a National Honor Society chapter | |

Student representative elected or appointed (appointed by a panel, commission, or board) to a local, district, regional or state-level civic, service and/or educational organization whose primary purpose is public/ community service and constituent representation. Such positions will be subject to approval by the state selection administrator.

The positions listed below DO NOT qualify for the USSYP program:

- Attendance or officer position at Boys/Girls Nation or State summer conference
- General Member of a National Honor Society (serving as an elected officer is acceptable)
- Member or leader of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or a sports team
- A founder or chairperson of a self-created group
- A participant, captain or officer in Mock Trial, Debate Team, Model UN or other academic club, mock legislature, conference, or competition where the primary engagement is for individual educational benefit.

If you are not a student body, class, or Honor Society officer, what is your qualifying elected/appointed position? How does it relate to government, public affairs, history, and/or community service? What constituency do you serve in this year-round in this position?

Principal or Counselor Confirmation Signature:

*I confirm that this student holds the above leadership position
for the entire 2024-2025 school year.*

Part III of VI

Written Essays

Each student must complete each of the following two essays. Each essay must be:

- submitted in the space below,
- 500 words or less,
- single-spaced,
- 12-point Times New Roman font,
- the student's original work, and
- include citations of sources (when appropriate).

**Academic Integrity: All essays submitted will be held to the highest standards of academic integrity. Any detection of plagiarism or use of artificial intelligence (e.g., ChatGPT) will result in the application's disqualification and the student's school will be contacted.*

Essay 1 of 2

Describing each of the following elements as they pertain to you:

- Current elected student position held and all past involvement in student government/leadership.
- Activities and achievements that demonstrate your leadership in school and community that specifically support your desire to serve as Alabama's USSYP State delegate.
- Involvement in community service initiatives or programs outside of school.
- How your participation in USSYP will enhance your understanding and interest in the political and governmental process of the United States. Share ways in which you think being chosen for the U.S. Senate Youth Program will help you explore some of the most important questions you have at present about the challenges facing the country.

**See Academic Integrity note above.*

Essay 2 of 2

Write a persuasive essay researched and written on a topic of social significance related to a contemporary state, national, or world event. Select a topic important to you, take a stand, relate its importance to you, and defend your position with evidence. All sources must be appropriately cited. Your essay will be judged on organization, ideas and content, evidence of personalization, and writing conventions (including citation of all sources).

**See Academic Integrity note above.*

Part IV of VI

Video Presentation

Public speaking is a core component of the USSYP. Each student applicant should prepare a short video presentation, *no more than 3 minutes in length*, as part of the 2025 application, to be judged for:

- public speaking skills,
- vocabulary,
- originality,
- organization of presentation,
- knowledge of content presented,
- clarity of artwork (charts, graphs, slides if used), and
- overall presentation (including, but not limited to, appropriate attire, professional demeanor, setting selected for the video, etc.)

Video Presentation Instructions:

Imagine that you are a newly elected Senator from Alabama. Submit a video presentation of *no more than 3 minutes* in length in which you:

- Describe who you are, why you are proud to represent Alabama.
- Tell us the personal characteristics you feel will make you an effective leader in Washington.
- Note what legislative initiatives you will champion and why they are important to you and your constituents.
- Note any historical leadership figures you would like to emulate.

Reminder: You are submitting this video to be considered for one of two delegate positions that will represent the state of Alabama in Washington D.C. at the United States Senate Youth Program's Washington Week. Your presentation should demonstrate professionalism, confidence, and respect for the significance of the occasion. Your dress and demeanor should reflect the seriousness and importance of this opportunity to represent your state on a national level.

To submit your video, upload your submission to YouTube:

Part V of VI

Parent/Guardian Consent

The USSYP requires that student applicants confirm that, to the best of their knowledge, they do not have a scheduling conflict with the Washington Week program (March 1-8, 2025). Attendance during the entire Washington Week program is required to receive the financial scholarship.

Parents or guardians must sign below to approve for students to go to Washington, D.C. for Washington Week program (March 1-8, 2025) under the conditions set forth in the rules and regulations in the program brochure: https://ussenateyouth.org/selection_process_brochure/

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

1st Parent's/Guardian's Name: _____ Sole Guardian? Yes No

1st Parent's/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

2nd Parent's/Guardian's Name: _____

2nd Parent's/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Part VI of VI

Required Attachments

- **Two (2) Signed Letters of Recommendation:**
 1. *One letter* from either the High School Principal or Teacher
 2. *One letter* from another adult representative of an organization or activity where the student has a record of leadership and service to others and/or where the student is currently holding a qualifying leadership position for USSYP.
- **Copy of School Transcript** - *this information will remain confidential.*

Submission Process

- **Step One:** Students must submit their completed applications to the appropriate high school counselor.
- **Step Two:** School counselors must select *one student as their school's nominee* for the United States Senate Youth Program.
- **Step Three:** School counselors must assemble their student nominee's completed application with all required attachments, links, and signatures *in one document* and attach it to an email to:

Dr. Carolyn Jones, Education Administrator, Alabama State Department of Education at:
cajones@alsde.edu

Application Deadline is September 27, 2024