State of Alaska

United States Senate Youth Program

Information and Application Form for School Year 2019-2020

# **Information**

Completed application packages must be received by the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development before 4:00 p.m., Thursday, November 1, 2019. Applications must include:

1. One official application form with the principal’s **originalsignature** and three photocopies of the application form;
2. One copy of a current, officialacademic transcript;
3. One **official**PSAT, SAT, or ACT test score;
4. Twoessays; and
5. Two letters of support.

More detailed information about each of these requirements can be found in the Application Requirements Checklist section below.

## **Application Requirements Checklist**

1. Official application form and three photocopies
   1. Completed form must be signed by your school principal.
   2. **Each school may recommend only one candidate**.
2. Transcript
   1. One copy of a current, **official** academic transcript and class rank.
   2. Transcripts must include the student’s **non-weighted GPA**. This is non-negotiable. Transcripts that do not include a non-weighted GPA will be deemed ineligible.
3. Test scores
   1. One copy of **official** PSAT, SAT and/or ACT test scores (may be included on transcript).
   2. Copies and web printouts **are not** acceptable.
4. Two essays
   1. A personal essay describing each of the following elements as they pertain to you:
      1. Current position held, involvement in student government, and community service
      2. Activities and achievements that demonstrate leadership in school and community
      3. The personality trait that has been your greatest asset in leadership situations
      4. Your plans for the future
   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, relate its import to you, and defend your position. The essay will be judged on organization, ideas and content, evidence of personalization, and writing conventions.
   3. Each essay must be titled, typed, double-spaced and not to exceed two pages with one-inch margins all around.
5. Two Letters of Support
6. One from the school principal or school counselor
7. One from an adult advisor to the organization or student body entity that you represent.
8. Send only the two requested letters.

Only 1 copy of the official transcript and test scores needed per applicant. All above items must be submitted with the application package. **Do not send extra materials. They will not be considered.**

## **United States Senate Youth Program Descriptions**

### USSYP Washington Week Program

The USSYP takes place in Washington, D.C., March 7-14, 2020. 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 allexpenses for the program, including transportation, hotel, and meals.

### USSYP College Scholarship

Each delegate who participates in the USSYP Washington Week will receive a $10,000 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.

## **Application 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 2020, and has been elected 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

For more information on qualifying positions, please refer to page 3 of the 2020 USSYP brochure. Exceptions to the residency rule are made for Department of Defense Education Activity.

## **Selection Process**

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 complete a civics examination and/or participate in a Skype interview during the selection process.

## **Important Reminders**

* Only one copy of official transcripts and test scores needs to be included.
* Facsimiles or e-mails will not be accepted.
* Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
* The letters of support **must accompany** the application.
* Do not send photos or certificates or awards. No materials will be returned.

## **Application Submission Addresses**

**US Postal Service**

United States Senate Youth Program

Attn: Bjorn Wolter, Program Coordinator

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development

PO Box 110500

Juneau, AK 99801-0500

**Non-USPS Delivery Service**

United States Senate Youth Program

Attn: Bjorn Wolter, Program Coordinator

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development

801 W 10th Street, Suite 200

Juneau, AK 99801-0500

# **Official Alaska USSYP Student Application Form**

## Student Data

**Name: Age: Gender:**

**Address:**

**City: Zip:**

**Email Address:**

**Home Phone: Cell:**

**Current student government, civic, or educational position:**

**Class Standing: Permanent U.S. Resident?**

## Parent/Guardian(s) Data

**Name:**

**Address:**

**City: Zip:**

**Email Address:**

**Day Phone: Alt. Phone:**

## High School Data

**School Name: District:**

**Principal:**

**Address:**

**City: Zip:**

**Email Address: Phone:**

**Principal’s signature:**

*As principal, I recommend this student as our school’s nominee for the 2019-2020 United States Senate Youth Scholarship Program.*