

Janet Barresi
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Oklahoma State Department of Education



UNITED STATES SENATE
★ **YOUTH PROGRAM** ★

EDUCATION • LEADERSHIP • PUBLIC SERVICE

The 53rd Annual **United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP)**, established in 1962 by U.S. Senate Resolution, will be held in Washington, D. C., from March 7-14, 2015. Two student leaders from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity will spend a week in Washington experiencing their national government in action. Delegates will hear major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, officials for the Departments of State and Defense and directors of federal agencies, as well as participate in a meeting with a Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Each delegate will be awarded a \$5,000 College Scholarship for undergraduate studies. The Hearst Foundations will pay all expenses for the Washington Week, including transportation, hotel accommodations, and meals. Information about the national program can be found at <<http://www.ussenateyouth.org/>>

The Oklahoma Program

The Oklahoma State Department of Education coordinates and implements the USSYP on a yearly basis. It is overseen by the Director of Social Studies Education in the Office of Instruction on behalf of State Superintendent Janet Barresi. The USSYP is a competition scholarship program in which two Oklahoma high school students will win a one-week, all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., and a \$5,000 college scholarship from the Hearst Foundations.

“I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts.”

— ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Eligibility

To be eligible a student must be a junior or senior in an Oklahoma high school during the current year of the competition and be a permanent resident of the United States and be enrolled in a public or private secondary school in Oklahoma.

Selection will be based solely on the students' outstanding abilities and demonstrated qualities of leadership in an elected or appointed high school student office for the 2014-2015 school year. A student

who graduates high school at the close of the fall 2014 semester/quarter is not eligible to apply for the program.

Any high school junior or senior student is eligible for the program provided he or she has not previously been a delegate to Washington Week and has not received a USSYP scholarship. The student is required to be currently serving in an elected or appointed capacity in any one of the following student government, civic or educational organizations:

- a. Student Body President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer
- b. Class President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer
- c. Student Council Representative
- d. Student representative elected or appointed (appointed by a panel, commission or board) to a district, regional or state-level civic and/or educational organization approved by the state selection administrator.

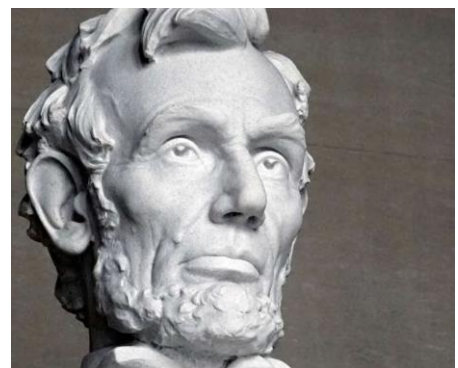
If you are not sure if a student is eligible, please contact the Program Director using the contact information below.



Application and program information concerning the United States Senate Youth Program are mailed to every high school principal and counseling office during early to mid August. **See the specific timeline below.** The high school principals have until mid-September to nominate student(s) for the program. The nominated student(s) take a qualifying examination in mid-October at one of eight selected regional sites around the state. The top 10 highest scoring students statewide come to the State Department of Education in Oklahoma City for interviews in November. Two winners and two alternates are selected from the interview process. This portion of the competition includes a short essay that is scored and a short interview by a panel of social studies professionals. State Superintendent Janet Barresi will inform the two scholarship winners and the two alternates in mid-December of their status.

Program Participation

Participation in the U.S. Senate Youth Program is by principal nomination only. The high school principal may nominate more than one eligible student for the USSYP competition. Students may not apply directly and the decision as to whom the principal nominates is strictly the principal's. Any high school student interested in the program should contact his/her principal directly to indicate his/her interest in being nominated to participate in the scholarship competition and to determine possible eligibility. If you are not sure if a student is eligible, please contact the Program Director using the contact information below.



Program Timeline for 2014–2015

August 11-29, 2014	Program information will be emailed to high school principals and counselors.
September 12, 2014	Principal Nominations due to Oklahoma State Department of Education.
October 4, 2014	Program examination administered at regional examination sites.
October 24, 2014	Top 10 finalists notified.
November 8, 2014	Top 10 finalists' essays and student information due to the Oklahoma State Department of Education.
November 25, 2014	Student interviews at the Oklahoma State Department of Education.
December 5, 2014	Winners/alternates will be notified by letter.
March 7-14, 2015	Washington Week held in Washington, D.C.



Contact Information

For further United States Senate Youth Program information contact:

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The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed this program on the NASSP National Advisory List of Student Contests and Activities for 2014-2015. <http://www.principals.org/>

