

# **2009-2010 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM**

## **OBJECTIVES, PROGRAM, RULES, PROCEDURES, APPLICATION DEADLINE**

### **OBJECTIVES**

The United States Senate Youth Program was created to help outstanding high school students broaden their knowledge and understanding of Congress and the legislative process in our nation's capital; to demonstrate the importance of a freely elected legislature in the perpetuation of an effective democratic system of government; and to dramatize in particular the crucial role the Senate performs in the maintenance of our government.

This program is sanctioned by the United States Senate and is under the supervision of the Senate Advisory Committee operating under the authority of Senate Resolution 324 which was agreed upon by unanimous voice vote in the Senate on April 16, 1962.

The William Randolph Hearst Foundation has made available the necessary funds so that politically minded high school student leaders throughout the United States will be able to participate in the program designed by the United States Senate.

### **PROGRAM**

Two elected high school student body officers from each state, selected by the chief state school officer in accordance with the rules listed below, will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. The internship program will take place March 6 – 13, 2010, and plans are being made for the winners to have sessions with many of the important legislative and government leaders in Washington. Students will also visit Washington's historical landmarks.

The Foundation has also made available a \$5000 scholarship for each delegate designated for the specified student's educational expenses within a four-year period. Funds may be expended for tuition, enrollment and other fees and charges, or room and board provided or approved by the school. To obtain scholarship funds, a student must, within two years after high school graduation, enroll at an accredited U.S. college or university, pledging to include courses in government or related subjects to his or her undergraduate program.

Travel instructions or other miscellaneous information will be sent to the students' parents and high school principals. All expenses, transportation, and lodging for the delegates will be paid for by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. It will be the responsibility of the local school districts and/or local secondary schools to transport the students to and from the nearest airport, bus, or train stations with scheduled service.

Each student will be adequately insured during his trip to and from Washington and during his stay in Washington. A registered nurse and attending physician will be on duty at all times.

## RULES

1. Any high school junior or senior student\* (regardless of race, color, creed, sex, or financial need) is eligible for the program provided he or she has not previously been a delegate to the program, and currently is serving in an elected or appointed capacity in any one of the following student government, civic, or educational organizations (**Only the offices listed below are eligible for consideration.**):
  - 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 district, regional, or state-level civic or educational organization

**\*Please note that a student who graduates high school at the close of the fall 2009 semester/quarter is not eligible to apply for the program.**

2. Each student must be a PERMANENT RESIDENT of the United States and currently enrolled in a public or private secondary school located in the state in which either one of his or her parents or guardians legally resides. A student attending a school located in a state other than the state of legal residence of either one of such student's parents or guardians is not eligible.
3. The two students from each state will be selected from district nominees selected on the basis of their application and test scores. An interview committee will make the final selection.
4. Permission of the parents for the students to attend is secured at the time of application. The announcement of the winners will be made in December by the individual senators from Washington, D.C.
5. Each student delegate will be the guest of the United States Senate throughout the program and will be required to conduct himself or herself in such a manner as to reasonably assure that neither the United States Senate nor the Senate Youth Program will be discredited as a result of their conduct.
6. The agenda may call for a red carpet sightseeing trip of four or five major projects in Washington. At this time, however, we do not have exact details as the agenda has not been completed. There will be no time for other side trips or shopping during the Senate Youth Program.

## PROCEDURES

Each local system is invited to select **one nominee** who must complete an application for submission to the state selection committee. Methods of selection are to be developed by each system in accordance with the aforementioned rules. After an application is received, a test to be given to the student will be sent to the individual designated to administer it, preferably the high school counselor. One student from each congressional district will be selected to participate in statewide interviews that will result in the selection of two state winners and two alternates.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**

The application deadline for the 2009-2010 United States Senate Youth Program is September 11, 2009.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

*For more information on the United States Senate Youth Program, please write or call:*

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