

62nd United States Senate Youth Program 2023 – 2024 Mississippi Application Guidelines



Requirements and Instructions

Qualified high school juniors or seniors must show demonstrated leadership by serving in elected or appointed positions in which they are actively representing a constituency in organizations related to student government, education, public affairs, and community service. Students are eligible for the program provided he or she has not previously been a delegate to Washington Week and has not received a US Senate Youth scholarship. Selected students must be able to attend Washington Week program from March 2 – 9, 2024 to receive the financial scholarship (\$10,000). **Each student must be a legal permanent resident or citizen of the United States to apply for the US Senate Youth Program at the time of application.**

Students must be enrolled for the entire academic year in a public or independent high school located in the state in which at least one of their parents or guardians currently resides. **The student must hold a high-level leadership position in any one of the following student government, civic or educational organizations during the entire 2023 – 2024 academic year:**

- Student Body president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer
- Class president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer
- Student Council representative
- A National Honor Society Officer (including discipline-based Honor Societies such as the National English and Social Studies Honor Societies that include service components)
- 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 approved by the state selection administrator.
- JROTC Commander Officer

The positions listed below DO NOT qualify the student for the 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.

For additional requirements or information, please review the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) brochure at: <https://ussenateyouth.org/>

Semi-Finalist

Selection for semi-finalist is based on the following application criteria:

- Demonstrated leadership qualities through public service in elected or appointed positions in student government, civic, or educational organizations
- Involvement in school and community activities
- High academic achievement
- The quality of a complete application, including the ability to write with clarity and express ideas in an organized manner.

Testing

Students who meet the semi-finalist requirements will be notified by Mississippi Department of Education to take the US Senate Youth Program (USSYP) National Exam on Saturday, October 21, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Registration information and test site locations will be emailed to qualified participants only.

Finalist

Selection as a finalist is based on the following:

- Meet the above criteria as a semi-finalist
- Score in the top percentage on the USSYP National Qualifying Exam and
- Interview with the USSYP Selection Committee. Upon completion of interviews, two delegates and two alternates will be selected.

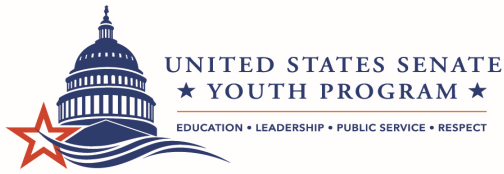
Submit the following required documents:

- Completed USSYP application with required signatures
- Attach an official high school transcript with the application. The transcript must include the student's current classes in which the student is enrolled, ACT score, class rank, and cumulative GPA.

If you have any questions about eligibility, please email Sandra Hilliard at: shilliard@mdek12.org

All documents must be received or postmarked by Friday, September 29, 2023. No late entries will be accepted. Mail or email documents to:

**Sandra Hilliard or shilliard@mdek12.org
Mississippi Department of Education
Office of Teaching and Leading, Suite 101
P.O. Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205**



**2023 – 2024 United States Senate Youth Program
Mississippi Department of Education
Student Application Form**

Section I: Student Application Form *(please type)*

Student Information			
Student Name: (First Middle Last)		Date of Birth: (Month/Day/Year)	
Home Address: (Street City State Zip)			
Student Phone:		Student E-mail:	
Birthdate:	Age:	Grade:	Expected Graduation: (Month/Year)
Student is a current US Citizen:		Student is a permanent resident of the US:	
Parent/Guardian:		Parent's Cell: Parent's Email:	
Parent/Guardian:		Parent's Cell: Parent's Email:	
School and District Information			
High School:		School District:	
School Address: (Street City State Zip)			
School Phone:		School Type: Public Private	
Principal Name:		Principal E-mail:	
To be Completed by School's Guidance Counselor			
Cumulative GPA:	Composite ACT Score:	SAT Score:	
Counselor Name:		Counselor Email:	
Parent/Guardian Student Signatures			
I certify that I have carefully read the United States Senate Youth Program qualifications, program rules, and scholarship rules; that all the information in this application is correct; and I understand complete attendance at Washington Week is required to receive the scholarship.			
Parent/Guardian Signature:			Date:
Student Signature:			Date:

Section II: Academic and Extracurricular Activity History

- A. List all **ELECTED OR APPOINTED OFFICES** held in student government, civic or educational organizations beginning with the current office (2023-2024) academic year.

Position	Title of Club/Organization	School Year Position was Held (i.e., 2023-2024)

- B. List **COMMUNITY SERVICES** activities in which you are/were involved beginning with the current activities.

Position	Title of Club/Organization	School Year Position was Held (i.e., 2023-2024)

- C. List **RECOGNITION/AWARDS** in which you have received beginning with the current award.

Recognition/Awards	Year(s) Received

D. Provide a short paragraph listing your leadership positions and academic honors, including community service, other extracurricular pursuits and general plans for college and career.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to write their response to question D. The box is positioned below the question text and occupies a significant portion of the page.

Section III: Student Essay

Essay must be typed, single-spaced, and 12- font size. Points will not only be awarded for how well applicant addresses the question, but also for grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Essay Question 1: In 300 words or less, what activities and achievements demonstrates your leadership in school and community that specifically support your desire to serve as the state USSYP delegate, if selected?

Essay Question 2: In 300 words or less, as a student leader in Mississippi, what do you see as the greatest areas for improvement in the education system and what ideas would you propose to create better dialogue and understanding among various student groups?

Section IV: Verification and Signature

This is to verify that _____ (*student's name*) has been selected to apply for the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) and to the best of my knowledge, the information provided on this application form is true.

Counselor's Signature _____ Date _____

Principal's Signature _____ Date _____