



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **THE 2026 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM APPLICATION SEASON OPENS**

*Two outstanding high school students from each state are selected for the premier leadership educational program and will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship.*

**WASHINGTON, D.C. – August 18, 2025 –** The [United States Senate Youth Program](#) (USSYP) is pleased to announce state departments of education nationwide are accepting applications for the **64th annual Washington Week to be held March 7 – 14, 2026.**

104 students, two from each state, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity will be chosen to attend this comprehensive education, leadership, and public service program. They will participate in an intensive week-long study of the federal government and its leaders, meeting with their U.S. Senators, the President, Cabinet Secretaries, a Justice of the Supreme Court, senior members of the national media and other key policymakers. Each delegate will also receive a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship given in the name of the United States Senate, with encouragement to pursue studies in history, government, and public affairs.

The 2026 USSYP Senate Co-Chairs are **Senator Katie Britt of Alabama and Senator Edward J. Markey of Massachusetts**. Each will have keynote events with the students during Washington Week

*“The United States Youth Program attracts the best and brightest young leaders, and I’m thrilled to support this program as a co-chair this year. I look forward to meeting the outstanding students who are selected, including the two Alabamians who I know will represent our state exceptionally. This week will surely create memories that last a lifetime and provide lessons and opportunities that will shape the futures of these young men and women in meaningful ways.”* said Republican Co-Chair **Senator Katie Britt**.

Democratic Co-Chair **Senator Edward J. Markey** added *“The U.S Senate Youth Program is an exciting opportunity for talented students from Massachusetts and across the country to engage in a fulfilling week of civic engagement and civil discourse in our nation’s capital. I encourage all future leaders to consider taking this next step to further their education and guide their commitment to their communities and the country.”*

The **2026 USSYP Senate Advisory Committee** includes the Vice President of the United States and the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders who annually serve as the program’s Honorary Co-Chairs, and an eight-member bipartisan Senate panel, four Senators from each party, who lend their names in support. Serving on the 2026 USSYP Senate Advisory Committee are: Senator John Barrasso, M.D. of Wyoming, Senator Steve Daines of Montana, Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith of Mississippi, Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada, Senator Andy Kim of New Jersey, Senator Angus S. King, Jr. of Maine and Senator Elissa Slotkin of Michigan.

## **Delegate Selection Process:**

The delegate selection is administered by each state's chief school officer in cooperation with high school principals. Applicants must be:

- High School Juniors or Seniors
- Elected or appointed officers in student government or other school-based organizations for the 2025-2026 academic year.
- Reside in the state where they attend school to qualify.

For more information about eligibility, application procedures and deadlines, students should contact their high school principal, school counselor, or [ussenateyouth.org](https://ussenateyouth.org) for state specific applications and deadlines.

## **About The United States Senate Youth Program:**

This competitive, merit-based program created by Senate Resolution 324 in 1962. Military officers who serve as elite chaperones and mentors to the student delegates throughout the week are competitively selected through the Office of the Secretary of Defense, representing one of the longest-standing partnerships between a national youth program and the Department of Defense.

USSYP alumni now number more than 6,300 and many go on to build legacies of public service, including Senator Susan Collins of Maine, former Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, and former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie. To learn more about USSYP, visit [ussenateyouth.org](https://ussenateyouth.org).

[The Hearst Foundations](#) have fully funded and administered the program since inception. No public funds are utilized.

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