



USSYP Application Process and Requirements for the State of Oregon:

What is the United States Senate Youth Program?

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) administers the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) for the State of Oregon. The U.S. Senate Youth Program is an annual scholarship competition funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation and endorsed by the U.S. Senate. Each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity select two high school juniors or seniors to participate in the program. This year, the delegates will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship and attend an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., on March 1-8, 2025.

- [2024-25 Program Brochure](#)
- [The official website for the U.S. Senate Youth Program](#)
- [2024-25 Application and Additional Information](#)

Application and Process Requirements

Please review all the included information for guidance on the content and formatting of application materials. The application will be due on Friday, October 11th, 2024.

1. [Student Application](#)
2. Resume
3. Cover letter
4. 4-minute video
5. Process statement from the school

What are the eligibility requirements?

High school juniors or seniors must be nominated by their high school principal or designated school official to be considered for the USSYP. Principals and designated school officials may nominate:

- One student for 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A schools; or
- Two students for 5A and 6A schools.

Delegates must be juniors or seniors and elected or appointed student officers for the 2024-2025 academic year and they must reside in the state where they attend school. Eligibility considerations may also be made for student representatives elected or selected (by a panel, commission or board) to district, regional or state-level civic or educational organizations where the student is serving a constituency in a high-level leadership position for the entire academic year.

Additionally, nominated students must be permanent residents of the United States and currently enrolled in an Oregon public or private secondary school. Attendance during the Washington Week program is required to receive the financial scholarship. The 2025 program brochure with detailed rules and additional information about the selection process may be accessed on the USSYP website www.ussenateyouth.org.

How does the principal select the school's nominee(s)?

Principals take sole responsibility for selecting the student nominee(s). Some principals delegate that authority to a head counselor or other appropriate staff member. Others conduct a selection process that includes a small committee.

What are the responsibilities of a principal or designated school official?

The responsibilities of a principal or designated school official are:

1. To review the rules for student participation listed in the U.S. Senate Youth Brochure;
2. Develop a process for the selection of a nominee(s) from the school;
3. Publicize the process within the school; and
4. Through the selection process, determine the candidate(s) to apply.

What are the required materials nominated students must submit in the application packet?

1. The online application form is available on [Oregon's USSYP website](#).
2. The online application requires:
 - **A resume** including any received awards, recognition, and leadership activities in student government/politics, community, music, sports, and other extracurricular activities.
 - **A cover letter describing the following:**
 - How do you further equity in the community through your leadership position(s)
 - What interests you about the U.S. Senate Youth Program
 - What you hope to gain from the U.S. Senate Youth Program
3. **Video presentation:** Public speaking is a core component of the USSYP. Each student applicant should prepare a short video presentation, no more than 4 minutes in length, as part of the 2024 application, to be judged for public speaking skill, vocabulary, originality, organization of presentation, knowledge of any material or content presented, clarity of artwork (charts, graphs, slides if used) and overall presentation.
 - **Video topic and instructions:** Please submit a video presentation of no more than 4 minutes in length on this topic. See Prompt and Instructions below.
4. **A letter of recommendation** specific to this program, not to exceed one page. The letter may be written by anyone the student selects with knowledge of the student's activities.
5. **A statement of the specific process** used to determine the school's nominee, as publicized within the school. This statement must be written on official school stationery. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

How do students apply for the USSYP and what is the application deadline?

Nominated students can apply via an online form available on Oregon's USSYP website.

Completed applications must be submitted online no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, October 11th, 2024.