



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0023

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

THOMAS A. DESJARDIN
ACTING COMMISSIONER

August 17, 2015

TO: High School Principals and Headmasters

FROM: Kristie Littlefield, Social Studies Specialist; USSYP Coordinator

RE: Your school's nomination for the United States Senate Youth Program

Two Maine high school students will be selected to participate in the 54th annual United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) sponsored by the United States Senate with funding and administration by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. The program will be held in Washington, D.C., March 5 - March 12, 2016. In addition to the **all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C.**, delegates will each receive a **\$5,000 scholarship** (provided they enroll in an accredited college or university within two years following high school graduation). Additional details may be found in the enclosed brochure and on Maine's USSYP webpage: www.maine.gov/doe/socialstudies/senateyouthprogram.

In Maine, each high school principal may **nominate one eligible student for consideration**. The enclosed nomination form and accompanying materials must be **postmarked no later than October 15, 2015**.

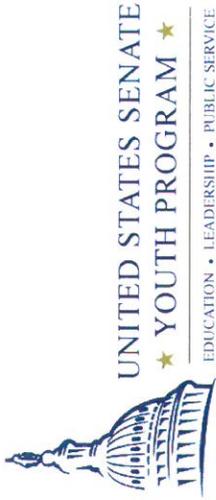
Your nominee must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Student is a permanent resident of the United States and one of their parents or guardians is a legal resident of Maine.
2. Student is a junior or senior in a Maine school.
3. Student must be currently serving in one of the following posts for the 2015-16 school year:
 - Member or officer of student council, student senate, or equivalent student government organization.
 - Class officer – president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer.
 - Student representative on a district, regional, or state-level civic and/or educational organization.

In addition to the above criteria, your nominee should have a true interest in government, history, politics and leadership. High academic achievement, high aspirations, confidence and creativity are characteristics that define USSYP delegates.

A state selection committee will review the nominations and choose up to ten finalists. Selection will be based upon students' outstanding abilities and demonstrated qualities of leadership. All finalists will be invited to Augusta for interviews to be conducted in November. Announcement of Maine's two delegates along with first and second alternates will be made by mid-December.

Your efforts, on behalf of Maine's young leaders, are much appreciated! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me via email: kristie.littlefield@maine.gov or phone: (207) 624-6828.



Maine's United States Senate Youth Program Nomination Form 2015-16

Note: High school principals may nominate one eligible student for consideration.

Required materials to be submitted as part of the application packet:

1. This form, completed by a school official. (1 copy)
2. A statement of recommendation for the student, **not to exceed one typed page**. The letter may be written by anyone the student chooses. The letter should describe the student's leadership qualities, civic-mindedness and dedication to learning. (4 copies)
3. Completion of Maine's USSYP Scholarship Application by your student. Guidelines are enclosed. **4 page limit**. (4 copies)

Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted. Department staff will not consider incomplete application submissions and will not contact you or your student to ask for missing materials. Submit all required materials to the Maine Department of Education with a **postmark no later than October 15, 2015.**

Mail submissions to:

Kristie Littlefield, USSYP Coordinator
Maine Department of Education
23 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

The selection of finalists will be completed by December 1, 2015, and finalist names will be forwarded to the William Randolph Hearst Foundation for official announcement by mid-December.

Contact Information, please print:

Name of High School: _____

Principal: _____

Principal's Email: _____

School Phone: _____

Contact information for staff member coordinating USSYP, if different than above:
Name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

Applicant, please print:

Name of student applicant: _____

Applicant's email: _____

Applicant's grade: _____ High school graduation year: _____

Leadership position(s) elected or appointed to for 2015-16: _____

Signatures:

I certify that I am an eligible applicant and all the information in this application is correct and not plagiarized. I understand attendance during the Washington Week program is required to receive the financial scholarship.

Applicant's Signature

Date

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, all of the information in this application is correct and the student meets eligibility requirements.

Principal's Signature

Date



**Maine's United States Senate Youth Program
Scholarship Application Guidelines 2015-16**
www.maine.gov/doe/socialstudies/senateyouthprogram

Instructions: Applications are to be completed by the nominee and must be typed and no more than four pages. Use the headings below and organize your responses accordingly. Do not list everything you have accomplished; however, include all pertinent information relevant to your leadership qualities, community or public service and volunteerism.

Part I Leadership Positions: List all elected or appointed offices held, grades 9-12. You must hold a current office for the 2015-16 school year to apply. List the title of the office(s) and year(s) office was held.

Part II School Activities: List significant school activities (grades 9-12) which reflect leadership capability (e.g. Editor, school newspaper; Key Club, organized community food drive). Identify the group or organization (avoid abbreviations), note your role and list your length of service.

Part III Volunteerism/Community Service: List major activities not related to school in which you have participated. Include only activities relevant to this scholarship. List the name of the activity and length of service.

Part IV Honors, Awards, Recognition: List major honors, awards or recognition you have earned that relate to this scholarship. Include the name of the honor and the year received.

Part V: Statement of Future Aspirations: Compose one paragraph about your future plans and goals.

Part VI: Essay: Write an essay no longer than 500 words on a significant issue you would like the U.S. Congress to consider. Identify and describe the issue; state major points of view on both sides of the issue. Outline your position on the topic. You will be assessed on how well you support your position with evidence, not on the topic or position you choose. References should be cited. Language usage, spelling and grammar will also be assessed.