UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM (USSYP)

The United States Senate unanimously passed a resolution in 1962 creating The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP). The USSYP is a national initiative to provide an annual opportunity for students who demonstrate leadership abilities and rank academically in the top one percent of their class. The USSYP is designed to deepen students understanding of America's political processes and encourage them to consider careers in public service.

Two student leaders from each state, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity will become USSYP delegates. From March 9th through March 16th, 2013 the delegates will visit Washington, DC and experience the United States government in action. Delegates will hear major policy addresses by Senators, cabinet members, officials from the Departments of State and Defense, and directors of other federal agencies. Delegates will also experience and participate in a meeting with a Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. All transportation, as well as hotel and meal expenses for the USSYP will be provided by the Hearst Foundation. Each delegate will be awarded a $5,000 college scholarship to be used towards enrollment in an Undergraduate Bachelor Degree program at an accredited college or four (4) year university.

Eligibility Criteria

For the purposes of the District of Columbia: delegates candidates must be:

- A graduating High School Junior or Senior
- A first time USSYP delegate
- A resident of the District of Columbia (based on parent/legal guardian's residency)
- A U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Enrolled in a Public, Public Charter, or private school in the District of Columbia
- Must be one of the following: An elected or appointed student body class President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or Student Representative

Scholarship Rules

Delegates must:

- Participate in the USSYP Washington Week Leadership Program from March 9 – 16, 2013
- Enroll at an accredited college or university in the U.S. within two (2) years of graduation
- Accepted into an Undergraduate Bachelor Degree program
- Complete the USSYP Application for Grant form, have it signed by the Dean of Admissions or Bursar and affixed with the college or university seal, and forward to the Hearst Foundation

Application Process

Applicants must submit:

- Official High School Transcript

and

Complete:

- 500 word typed essay
- An interview with the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education's scholarship review panel

Applications can be obtained from DC High School principals, head guidance counselors, and scholarship coordinators.

For further information please contact Cristi Purnell at 202-481-3946 or Cristi.purnell@dc.gov

OSSE

Higher Education Financial Services

UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM (USSYP)

2012 STATE–LEVEL STUDENT SELECTION CONFIRMATION

This form must be typed and returned to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) October 3, 2012 This form is available online at www.osse.dc.gov. The Department of Education may notify this delegate of their selection after confirmation has been verified (fax or email) by the USSYP.

Student Name:

_____

Last Name First Name Middle Initial

Birth Date:

_____ _____ _____

Month Day Year
(00/00/0000)

Student Home Address:

_____

House Number Street Name Apt/Unit #

(____) _____ - _____

Phone

_____

City State Zip Code

_____

Email

Parent/Legal Guardian Name

_____

Last Name First Name Middle Initial

(____) _____ - _____

Business Phone or Cell

High School Name

_____

☐ **Public** ☐ **Private**

_____

Number Street Name

_____

School Official Name

_____

City State Zip Code

(____) _____ - _____

School Official Phone

_____

School Official Email

Delegate's elective student office (2012/2013 academic year)

_____

Student's Background (leadership roles, extra-curricular activities, future plans (for use in press and media coverage)

_____

_____

Submitted by: _____

School Official Signature

DC OneApp

UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM (USSYP)

2012 STATE–LEVEL STUDENT SELECTION CONFIRMATION

Congratulations on your decision to apply for the USSYP! Participation in the USSYP is a wonderful opportunity for you to gain exposure to Americas' democratic process.

The essay questions below are designed to provide you with a chance to reflect on your political and historical views. We believe this reflection will help prepare you for the stimulating conversation and exchange of ideas during the USSYP Washington Week which will be held March 9 -16, 2013.

Please choose one of the topics below to write the required 500 word essay. Your essay must be typed, double spaced, using Times New Roman 12pt. font.

1. Discuss the "Arab Spring" which has forced numerous foreign rulers from power since 2010. What are its prospects for continued success in the future?

2. Has Congress failed to live up to its responsibilities as the first branch of government under the Constitution? How has the ideological polarization of the two major political parties contributed, if at all, to Congress's difficulties? Be specific in discussing the success or failure of certain legislative initiatives.

3. How do annual budget deficits by the federal government relate, if at all, to the U.S. public debt as a whole? Compare and contrast the two major parties' approaches to addressing both.

4. Do you agree or disagree with the Supreme Court's decision concerning the 2010 health care reform legislation in the State of Florida, et al. v. United States Department of Health and Human Services, et al. (2012)?

We at the OSSE are proud of you and your accomplishment and wish you much success in the USSYP delegate selection process.