

**2017 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

HOME STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, AND ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PERMANENT RESIDENT YES OR NO

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ HOME TEL. \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_ WORK TEL. \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

HIGH SCHOOL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PRINCIPAL'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL TEL. \_\_\_\_\_

PRINCIPAL'S EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT GOV., CIVIC OR EDUCATIONAL OFFICE CURRENTLY HELD BY APPLICANT:

PLANS AFTER GRADUATION: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE FOLLOWING CHECKLIST MUST ACCOMPANY THE APPLICATION:**

1. A typewritten letter of nomination and recommendation from the PRINCIPAL, detailing the qualifications of the student. Criteria that needs to be met would be the ability to speak and write well, and a comprehensive knowledge of local, state and national government. The nominee should participate actively in both school and community affairs and have an enthusiastic attitude. (*Section I*) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Photocopy of students scholastic records \_\_\_\_\_
3. Extracurricular and community activities \_\_\_\_\_
4. Black and White (3 x 5) headshot picture of student \_\_\_\_\_
5. Statement giving permission signed by parent/guardian (*Section II*) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Statement from student with reason for participation (*Section III*) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Student essay (*Section IV*) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Teacher or counselor letter of support (*Section V*) \_\_\_\_\_
9. Recommendation from entity outside of school community (*Section VI*) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature, Scholarship Counselor \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Printed Name of Scholarship Counselor Email

# UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

## **Section I: School Principal Statement**

Please **type** statement below or a separate letter may be attached to this form. Please note: If the principal's statement is submitted in a separate letter, it must be attached to a signed copy of this form or the application will be disqualified.

It is my opinion that \_\_\_\_\_ meets all the national and state requirements specified in materials from the Nevada Department of Education regarding the United States Senate Youth Program. It is my opinion that this student should be considered as a strong candidate for the U.S. Senate Youth Program for the following reasons:

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Principal Signature

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Date

**UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM**

**Section II: Statement Giving Permission Signed by Parent/Guardian**

I give my permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to participate and be considered as a candidate for the U.S. Senate Youth Program. Also to partake in the United States Youth Senate Program's "Washington Week" that will take place in Washington D.C. from March 4-11, 2017.

Please refer to the brochure for further information. You may also visit the U.S. Senate Youth Program website. <http://ussenateyouth.org/>

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date

# **UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM**

## **Section III: Student Statement for Reason of Participation**

Please **type** statement. This is your opportunity to show us your passion on Political and Civic matters. What has driven you? What has inspired you? What in your life has made you want to participate in this program? How do you think this experience will change your life? This statement must be attached or the application will be disqualified.

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Student Signature

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Date

## **UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM**

### **Section IV: Student Essay**

The essay must be single-spaced and typed. Points will not only be awarded for how well the applicant addresses the question, but also for grammar, spelling and punctuation. As well as, clearly articulating formative thoughts and opinions.

If a discovery of plagiarism is made known or brought to the attention of officials at the Nevada Department of Education during a current grant competition, the Department has the right to remove the application from consideration.

*Answer both questions on separate 8½ x 11 sheets of paper and attach to the application*

Write a **maximum** 500-word essay on the topic, **“When an elected official has a belief or opinion different from that of the majority of the community that elected him/her to public office how should that elected official behave? Should the elected official vote based upon their individual beliefs, or for the beliefs of the majority of their constituency?”**

**UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM**

**Section V: Teacher or Counselor Letter of Support**

(Must have support letters from two teachers or one teacher and one counselor.)

It is my opinion that \_\_\_\_\_ should be considered as a strong candidate for the U.S. Senate Youth Program for the following reasons:

Include student's specific accomplishments (e.g., academic/non-academic, range of accomplishments, and evidence of the student's leadership and motivation). Please **type** statement below or a separate letter may be attached to this form. Please note: If the Teacher/Counselor letter is submitted on a separate sheet of paper, it must be attached to a signed copy of this form or the application will be disqualified.

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Teacher/Counselor Signature

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Date

# UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

## **Section V: Teacher or Counselor Letter of Support**

(Must have support letters from two teachers or one teacher and one counselor.)

It is my opinion that \_\_\_\_\_ should be considered as a strong candidate for the U.S. Senate Youth Program for the following reasons:

Include student's specific accomplishments (e.g., academic/non-academic, range of accomplishments, and evidence of the student's leadership and motivation). Please **type** statement below or a separate letter may be attached to this form. Please note: If the Teacher/Counselor letter is submitted on a separate sheet of paper, it must be attached to a signed copy of this form or the application will be disqualified.

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Teacher/Counselor Signature

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Date

# UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

## **Section VI: Recommendation From Entity Outside of School Community**

(e.g. employer, minister, community service coordinator)

It is my opinion that \_\_\_\_\_ should be considered as a strong candidate for the U.S. Senate Youth Program for the following reasons:

Include student's specific accomplishments (e.g., academic/non-academic, the range of accomplishments and evidence of the student's leadership and motivation). Please **type** statement. Please note: If the recommendation letter is submitted on a separate sheet of paper, it must be attached to a signed copy of this form or the application will be disqualified.

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Signature

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Date

# UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

## Formatting Guidelines for United States Senate Youth Program Application

### I. **Outline of Current Scholastic Accomplishments, Activities, and Interests.**

This should appear in resume format complete with headings. **Use the headings below** and organize the information to make the application easy to read. Make sure to remember who sponsors this scholarship (your audience) and for what overall purpose. Provide a brief description of the organizations or clubs to which you belong and explain your roles.

A. **Current elective office(s)** – Explain your leadership role(s) and duties.

B. **Significant school activities** – List those activities (grades 9-12) that show leadership qualities and relevancy to this scholarship. Identify the organization and explain your role, duties, and any ongoing participation (i.e. football grades 9-12, team captain grade 12, editor, school newspaper, key club, organized community food drive). These explanations clarify your leadership roles. Members of the selection committee may not recognize the abbreviations for names of clubs or organizations, or the name of some organizations such as NLR All-Stars or UNI-Club, so be specific and give a brief explanation where necessary.

C. **Volunteerism and community service activities** - List those activities that may be relevant to this scholarship. Address those activities you have participated in throughout your high school years. **Identify** the organization and **explain** your role(s) and any ongoing participation. For example, Exceptional Children's Exercise League may need an explanation of the organization and your activities with the organization.

D. **Awards and summer leadership activities** - List only those activities that may be relevant to this scholarship and do not seem to fit any other category. For example, Boy's or Girl's State, Boy's or Girl's Nation, and Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership (HOBY), are honors and activities that take place during the summer and which show leadership qualities the selection committee is looking for. If you are unsure whether members of the selection committee are familiar with an award, organization, or activity, spell out the name and give a brief description or explanation of the award, organization, or activity along with your role.

II. **Statement of Future Aspirations.** Write a paragraph explaining your plans for the future, including higher education. Again, remember the purpose and the audience for this scholarship when writing the paragraph.

III. **Essay.** Write an essay that describes the qualities of a good leader and explains why these leadership qualities are important to the future of our country.

**NOTE:** *The essay described above should be a formal, multi-paragraph response containing details and examples that support your ideas and opinions. Make sure to proofread your essay for grammar, spelling, and punctuation.*

**\*\* Make sure to have someone proofread your essay and application for omissions and errors.** This is your opportunity to impress the selection committee, and first impressions are lasting ones.

# UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM (USSYP)

## Eligibility Rules and Requirements

### Each applicant must meet the following criteria:

- permanent resident of the United States
- currently enrolled in an accredited public or private high school or, if home-schooled, currently belonging to a home school association or the Education Alliance group, located in the state (Nevada) in which either one of his/her parents or guardians legally resides
- high school junior or senior – Any high school junior or senior is eligible for the program provided he or she has not previously been a delegate to Washington Week and has not received a USSYP scholarship. A student who graduates from high school at the close of the fall 2016 semester/quarter is not eligible to apply for the program.
- **currently serving** in an elected or selected capacity in any one of the following student government, civic, or educational organizations:
  - student body president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer
  - class president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer
  - student council representative
  - student representative elected or appointed (appointed by a panel, commission, or board) to a **district, regional, or state-level** civic and/or educational organization approved by the state selection administrator
  - if home-schooled, an elected officer or student representative to a **district, regional, state-level, or national** civic or educational organization. State the name of the organization, the elected office, and briefly summarize the election process.

### Each student application must meet the following required guidelines:

- be postmarked no later than Friday, October 14, 2016
- contain an **official high school transcript** from the public or private high school attended, or if home-schooled, from the curriculum provider
  - All transcripts must contain the following information:
    - **current cumulative GPA,**
    - **ACT and/or SAT scores,**
    - **class rank,**
    - **courses in which student is currently enrolled** (even though no grade has been determined).
  - If home-schooled, the student must provide a written description of how grades are assessed for courses and what or who determines the curriculum in said courses.
- contain the signature of the school principal, or if home-schooled, contain the signature and a letter of recommendation from an elected official, minister, or other public servant who will recommend the student for this scholarship
- contain a resume with an outline of applicable scholastic accomplishments and interests appropriate for this scholarship (selection will be based on the student's outstanding abilities and demonstrated qualities of leadership.)
- contain an essay (remember, this essay is the first impression you will make on the selection committee, **have the essay proofread** by an appropriate teacher or counselor for errors in grammar, mechanics, etc., then make the suggested revisions.)
  - *Please review the checklist located on page -1 of the application carefully ensuring that You have all of the requested correspondence*

Students applying for the USSYP should be interested and participating in leadership, public service, and government related activities.

**Attendance during the Washington Week program (March 4-11, 2017) is required to receive the financial scholarship.**

**If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact:**

Sylvia Verdugo [sverdugo@doe.nv.gov](mailto:sverdugo@doe.nv.gov)

Nevada Department of Education

T. 775.687.9224