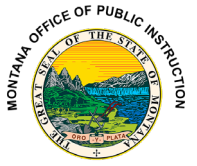




The Hearst Foundations 64th Annual United States Senate Youth Program \$10,000 Scholarship & Washington Week 2026



Complete ALL parts of the scholarship application packet.

Failure to complete the application, attachments, and video submission in full will result in disqualification.

Only emailed applications with PDF attachments will be accepted.

Email the completed typed, or hand-printed and scanned application packet to the email address in Part Four.

Submit the required video essay via the [Montana File Transfer Service](#) to the email address in Part Four.

All parts of your electronic application packet must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m., Monday, October 6, 2025.

Part One

Student Information

Full Name (first, middle, last)	
Preferred Name	
Gender	
Full Address (house number, city, state, zip code)	
Phone Number(s)	
Email Address	
Birthdate	

Are you a Montana state resident? (You must live in the state for the entire school year.)

☐ Yes

☐ No

Will you be a student in the current school through the Spring Semester of 2026? (Seniors must graduate in the spring of 2026. Winter graduates do not qualify for the scholarship.)

☐ Yes

☐ No

Parent/Guardian Information

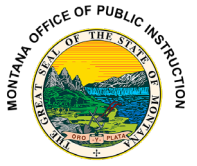
Parent 1 Name	
Parent 1 Full Address (house number, city, state, zip code)	
Parent 1 Phone Number	
Parent 1 Email	



The Hearst Foundations

64th Annual United States Senate Youth Program

\$10,000 Scholarship & Washington Week 2026



Parent 2 Name	
Parent 2 Full Address (house number, city, state, zip code)	
Parent 2 Phone Number	
Parent 2 Email	

Part Two

Eligibility Information

Qualified high school juniors or seniors must show demonstrated leadership by serving in elected or appointed positions in which they are actively representing a constituency in organizations related to student government, education, public affairs and community service.

High School Name	
High School Address (full address, city, state, zip)	
High School Phone	
Principal Full Name	
Principal Email	
Principal Phone	

Grade Level: (choose one)

- ☐ Junior
- ☐ Senior

Leadership Roles: (check all that apply for the 2025-26 school year ONLY)

The leadership role held must be for the full 2025-26 school year and is subject to verification and judgment of the state selection administrator. Your highest ranking, verifiable leadership role will be your qualifying leadership role. **The sponsor of that organization must be one of your recommenders.**

- ☐ Student Body President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer

Office Held:	
--------------	--

- ☐ Class President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer

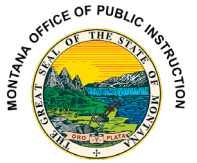
Office Held:	
--------------	--



The Hearst Foundations

64th Annual United States Senate Youth Program

\$10,000 Scholarship & Washington Week 2026



- ☐ Student Council Representative
- ☐ National Honor Society Officer (including discipline-based Honor Societies such as the National English and Social Studies Honor Societies that include service components)

Society:	
Office Held:	

- ☐ Other: Student representative elected or appointed (appointed by a panel, commission or board) to a local, district, regional or state-level civic, service and/or educational organization whose primary purpose is public/community service and constituent representation. The leadership role held must be for the full 2025-26 school year. Such positions will be subject to approval by the state selection administrator.

The positions listed below DO NOT qualify the student for the program:

- Attendance or officer position at Boys/Girls Nation or State summer conference
- General Member of a National Honor Society (serving as an elected officer is acceptable)
- Member or leader of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts or a sports team
- A founder or chairperson of a self-created group
- A participant, captain or officer in Mock Trial, Debate Team, Model UN or other academic club, mock legislature, conference or competition where the primary engagement is for individual educational benefit.

Explain:	
----------	--

Washington Week Verification:

The scholarship includes a Washington Week experience the week of March 7-14, 2026. **You must participate in the full Washington Week experience in its entirety to receive the scholarship. They are one inseparable award.**

Delegates will be required to have a **Real ID** that meets standards for federal identification, and they may not participate in any events outside the program during that week.

Please read carefully and answer the two questions below:

Are you able to fully participate in the entire Washington Week experience, March 7-14, 2026?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

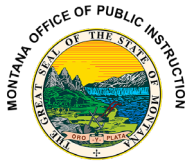
At the time of application, you must be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident (have a green-card) to be considered for participation. Do you meet these requirements?

(NOTE: Having applied for a Green Card, but not in possession of it, means you cannot apply for USSYP.)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No



The Hearst Foundations 64th Annual United States Senate Youth Program \$10,000 Scholarship & Washington Week 2026



Part Three

1. Essays

The essays must be written entirely by you. Use of AI is not permitted anywhere in the application process.

Essay 1: Submit a formal personal essay of 500 words or less describing each of the following elements as they pertain to you:

- Current elected student position held and all past involvement in student government/leadership;
- Activities and achievements that demonstrate leadership in school and community that specifically supports your desire to serve as your USSYP State delegate;
- Involvement in community service initiatives or programs outside of school;
- How your participation in USSYP will enhance your understanding and interest in the political and governmental process of the United States;
- Share ways in which you think being chosen for the U.S. Senate Youth Program will help you explore some of the most important questions you have at present about the challenges facing the country.

Essay 2: Submit a formal persuasive essay researched and written on a topic of social significance related to a contemporary state, national, or world event. Select a topic important to you, take a stand, relate its importance to you, and defend your position. The essay should be 500 words or less and include citation of sources.

2. Video Essay- NEW REQUIREMENT!

Beginning this year, applicants are required to submit a recorded presentation as part of their application packet. The presentation must be submitted via the secure [Montana File Transfer Service](#) to kristen.bokovoy2@mt.gov when the rest of the application packet is submitted. Applicants will be required to [Register](#) to send files.

Please Note! Do not send your video submission by regular email. It will not be opened. Video files sent via regular email cannot be opened by State of Montana personnel due to state email safety protocols.

Video Essay Prompt: Please submit a video presentation of no more than three minutes in length on this topic: Imagine that you are a newly elected Senator from Montana. Describe who you are, why you are proud to represent Montana. Tell us the personal characteristics you feel will make you an effective leader in Washington. Note what legislative initiatives you will champion and why they are important to you and your constituents. Please note any historical leadership figures you would like to emulate.

3. Two Letters of Recommendation

The two required Letters of Recommendation must be on official letterhead and must be written and signed by the recommenders. Attach your required Letters of Recommendation to your submission as PDFs.



The Hearst Foundations

64th Annual United States Senate Youth Program

\$10,000 Scholarship & Washington Week 2026



Letter One must be from the school principal as an endorsement of your application packet. The letter **MUST** confirm your student information and the leadership role that makes you eligible for this scholarship (the information shared in Part 2, under “Leadership Roles”). The principal must include their phone number and email address.

Letter Two must be from an adult representative of an organization or activity where you have a record of leadership and service to others and where you are currently holding a qualifying leadership position for USSYP. (Qualifying Leadership Role Organization Leader). Or, if your Qualifying Leadership Role is in Student Government, this letter may be from your school counselor. The letter **MUST** confirm your student information and the leadership role that makes you eligible for this scholarship (the information shared in Part 2, under “Leadership Roles”). The author must include their phone number and email address.

4. Transcripts

You must provide transcripts with your application. You can request these from your school and must include them in your application email. Attach them to your submission as a PDF.

5. Interview

Finalists will be asked to participate in an interview via Zoom in November. Details will be sent to finalists once they are selected. For a successful interview:

- Prepare your device beforehand to connect to the interview.
- Don’t use any form of AI.
- Sit at a desk or table in an area free of background noise.
- Be aware of what is visible behind you.
- Dress professionally.
- Speak slowly and clearly.

Part Four

Submission and Deadline Checklist

All completed application material submitted to the Montana Office of Public Instruction must be received **no later than 11:59 pm, Monday, October 6, 2025**. Early submissions are welcome; late submissions will be disqualified. Once you have clicked the box next to each item below, remember to attach them to your submission email as PDFs. Remember to send the video essay via the [State of Montana File Transfer Service](#).

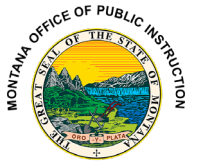
- ☐ Completed Application
- ☐ Essay 1
- ☐ Essay 2
- ☐ Video Essay



The Hearst Foundations

64th Annual United States Senate Youth Program

\$10,000 Scholarship & Washington Week 2026



- ☐ Letter of Recommendation from Principal
- ☐ Letter of Recommendation from Qualifying Leadership Role Organization Leader
- ☐ Transcripts

Signatures- All are required for completion of the application. You may print your application, get written signatures, and scan it in, or you may use e signatures.

Student: I attest that I understand the terms of the U.S. Senate Youth Program Scholarship as presented in this application and at <http://ussenateyouth.org/>, and that application is an accurate representation of my information and activities. I further attest that my essays were written by me and not written by any type of AI.

Student Signature:	
Date:	

Parents: By signing, you affirm that you are the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the student completing this application, and you are a resident of Montana. You agree to permit the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) to use the student's information and photograph in electronic and paper media and communication in connection with the U.S. Senate Youth Program.

Parent 1 Signature:	
Date:	

Parent 2 Signature:	
Date:	

Principal: By signing, you are endorsing this student as a potential representative of your school in this national program, and you are verifying that the information they present in this application to qualify for this program is accurate. Please be aware that the Montana USSYP Coordinator may contact you in order to verify information and your support of the candidate should they be selected as a finalist for this program.

Principal Signature:	
Date:	

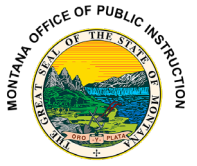
Qualifying Leadership Role Organization Leader or Counselor if Student Government position: By signing, you are endorsing this student as a potential representative of your school/organization in this national program, and you are verifying that the information they present in this application to qualify for this program is accurate. Please be aware that the Montana USSYP Coordinator may contact you in order to verify information and your support of the candidate



The Hearst Foundations

64th Annual United States Senate Youth Program

\$10,000 Scholarship & Washington Week 2026



should they be selected as a finalist for this program.

Leader/Counselor Signature:	
Date:	

Submission and Coordinator Contact Information:

Ms. Kristen Bokovoy
USSYP Coordinator
406-444-2417

Email questions and submit your application packet to: Kristen.Bokovoy2@mt.gov.

The OPI is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities. If a disability-related accommodation, an alternate format of this document is needed, or if there are questions, please contact Kristen Bokovoy at 406-444-2417 or kristen.bokovoy2@mt.gov. The Office of Public Instruction does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, marital status, religion, creed, pregnancy, childbirth, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, political beliefs, genetic information, military service or veteran's status, culture, social origin or condition, ancestry, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies:

OPI ADA Coordinator
406-444-3161
opiada@mt.gov