UNITED STATES SENATE
★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★
EDUCATION • LEADERSHIP • PUBLIC SERVICE • RESPECT

KANSAS
STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

2027 Kansas Application

APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 9, 2026

Whether outspoken or soft spoken, the type of student who thrives during Washington Week is one who is truly interested in government, history, politics and leadership and one who has a demonstrated desire to serve others in a leadership capacity.

The students selected should have experience in public speaking and working with others as part of public and community service activities. High academic achievement, high aspirations for college and career and other clear examples of self-motivation and creativity often define Senate Youth delegates. Being president of student body government is not enough of a qualifier in many cases – additional and often extraordinary examples of a student's passion for service and empathy for others are often better indicators. For inspiration read the student essays[1] on the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYYP) website.

The students selected should be confident and capable of public speaking because a central part of Washington Week are the many Q and A sessions where students are given an unparalleled opportunity to speak directly with the highest-level elected and appointed officials in the country – including the president of the United States.

To apply you must submit the following:

- ☐ Completed personal information on application.
- ☐ Official academic transcript with nonweighted grade point average (GPA).
- ☐ Two letters of support:
  - ☐ One from either the high school principal or a teacher.
  - ☐ One from an adult advisor to the organization or student body entity that they represent confirming the student's leadership position. Their leadership qualities and personal attributes.
- ☐ Two written application essays. Word templates are attached for the essays portion. Limit responses to 500 words or less per response.
- ☐ Signatures of principal and parents.

PLEASE NOTE: Materials received after midnight on the application deadline will be automatically declined for submission for the 2027 program.

1 http://ussenateyouth.org/washington_delegate_essays

Applicant

Name:

First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Birthdate:_____ Age:_____ Grade:_____ Gender: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Email:_____

NOTE: Applicants must be U.S. citizens or have permanent residency at the time of application.

Yes, I am a U.S. citizen.

No, I am not a U.S. citizen, but I am a permanent resident in possession of my official Green Card at the time of this application. Having applied for a Green Card, but not in possession, means you cannot apply for United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP).

Mark the ELECTED/APPOINTED office you now hold for the entire 2026-2027 school year in one of the following student government, civic or educational organizations:

- ☐ Student body president.
- ☐ Class president.
- ☐ Student body vice president.
- ☐ Class vice president.
- ☐ Student body secretary.
- ☐ Class secretary.
- ☐ Student body treasurer.
- ☐ Class treasurer.
- ☐ Student council representative.
- ☐ Officer in a National Honor Society chapter.
- ☐ 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. 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 united nations or other academic club, mock legislature, conference or competition where the primary engagement is for individual educational benefit.

APPLICANT

What is your qualifying position if not student body or Honor Society officer:

What do you do to serve your community and support your constituency year-round in this position:

Parent/Guardian

I am the parent/guardian of the applicant and am current resident of Kansas for the entire 2026-2027 school year.

Are you sole guardian? ☐ **Yes**, I am sole guardian. ☐ **No**.

Parent name/guardian 1: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Email: _____

Parent name/guardian 2: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Email: _____

Parents or guardians must sign below to approve for you to go to Washington, D.C. for a week to attend the United States Senate Youth Program under the conditions set forth in the rules and regulations of the program brochure (https://ussenateyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/2027-USSYP-Brochure.pdf):

Parent/guardian signature 1: _____ Date: _____

Parent/guardian signature 2: _____ Date: _____

School

☐ Public high school. ☐ Private high school. ☐ Other.

School name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Principal's name: _____ Email: _____

District name: _____ USD: _____

☐ In addition to my letter of recommendation, I verify this student is holding the leadership position noted and is endorsed to represent our school and state if chosen.

☐ I attest the applicant is attending the school for the entire 2026-2027 school year.

What is the applicant's rank in scholastic standing of his or her class?

☐ Upper 1%
☐ Upper 5 %
☐ Upper 10 %
☐ Upper 15%
☐ Upper 25 %

Principal's signature: _____ Date: _____

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

A U.S. Senate Youth Qualifying Examination will need to be administered to the nominated student as part of the application process. Please indicate below to whom the examination should be mailed. **This individual must be a principal, counselor or teacher.**

Name: _____ Title: _____

School name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

District name: _____ USD: _____

All information and signatures requested in the application form **MUST** be provided. **Failure to provide any of the requested information will result in disqualification of the application.**

Please mail this form to:

KSDE
C/O Kira Williams, USSYP
900 SW Jackson St., Suite 102
Topeka, KS 66612-1212

APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCT. 9, 2026. Notification will be after Dec. 1, 2026.

For more information, contact:

Kira Williams
USSYP Coordinator
Communications and Recognition Programs
(785) 296-4950
kira.williams@ksde.gov

Kansans CAN

Kansas State Department of Education
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
www.ksde.gov

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, KSDE, Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson, Suite 102, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-3201.