



# Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001  
www.isbe.net

**James T. Meeks**  
*Chairman*

**Tony Smith, Ph.D.**  
*State Superintendent of Education*

August 2018

Dear Local School Administrator, School Counselor, or Academic Adviser:

I am pleased to invite you to help us identify student candidates for the 57th annual United States Senate Youth Program sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. Please make the information available to juniors and seniors in your secondary school buildings.

The first phase of this program brings two students from each state to Washington, D.C., from March 2-9, 2019. Delegates will hear major policy addresses by senators, Cabinet members, officials of the Departments of State and Defense, and leaders of other federal agencies. They will also participate in a meeting with a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and the president of the United States. The Hearst Foundation will pay all expenses for the week, including transportation, hotel, and meals.

The second phase awards a Hearst Scholarship of \$10,000 to selected students. The Hearst Foundation requires that to obtain scholarship funds, a student must participate in the Washington Week program and use the funds within four years of enrollment at an accredited U.S. college or university. Students are encouraged to include history, political science, or related subjects in their undergraduate program.

This mailing contains a description of the program, rules, an explanation of the selection process, and an application form. Please contact Liz Hiler, principal consultant, at [ussyp@isbe.net](mailto:ussyp@isbe.net) or (217) 524-4832 for more detailed information. Electronic versions of the literature pertaining to the program are available on the ISBE website at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/United-States-Senate-Youth-Program-Hearst-Scholarship.aspx>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Smith".

**Tony Smith, Ph.D.**  
State Superintendent of Education

Enclosures

**Illinois 2018-19 Student Application Information  
for the  
57th Annual United States Senate Youth Program  
Sponsored by the  
William Randolph Hearst Foundation**

Eligibility Requirements

The student is required to be actively serving in an elected or appointed capacity in any one of the following student government, civic, or educational organizations during the entire 2018-19 academic school year:

- a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident at the time of the application;
- Student body president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer;
- Class president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer;
- Student council representative;
- National Honor Society officer or officer in a discipline-based National Honor Society; the student must hold a high-level leadership position in any one of the following student government, civic or educational organizations during the entire 2018-19 academic year; or
- Student representative elected or appointed (by a panel, commission, or board) to a local, district, regional, or state-level civic, service, and/or educational organization approved by the state selection administrator.

A student must be a citizen of the United States (or have permanent residency status at the time of the application), currently be enrolled in a public or private secondary school in Illinois, and have at least one parent or guardian who is a legal resident of Illinois.

Criteria for Selection

The Hearst Foundation stresses the following qualities:

- Leadership ability;
- High scholastic standing and other demonstrated abilities, including knowledge of American history, politics, and current events;
- Clear speech and written communication;
- Logical thought; and
- Community involvement.

Application

The application can be found at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/United-States-Senate-Youth-Program-Hearst-Scholarship.aspx>. Please copy as needed.

Application Process

- Students must complete an application;
- Attach to it a two-page essay responding to the four questions on the application;
- Obtain his or her principal's signature; and
- Submit the application to the Illinois State Board of Education in Springfield.

**The deadline for receipt of applications is 4 p.m., Wednesday, October 3, 2018.** No other information will be accepted or considered. Only complete applications will be accepted; **no electronic submissions, including facsimiles, will be accepted.**

**Applications must contain original signatures.** Applicants who desire verification of receipt of their application should use certified mail.

#### Selection Process in Illinois

- For purposes of selecting semifinalists, Illinois is divided into six areas. Semifinalists are selected from each area by a multi-county committee organized by a regional superintendent of the area. The committee in each area reviews the applications of students from its area and selects the semifinalists.
- Applicants are notified by letter of their status in the selection process in early November.
- Semifinalists are invited to participate in the final selection process in Springfield on Thursday and Friday, November 15 and 16, 2018. The Springfield selection phase consists of multiple sessions. Each semifinalist participates in one session. The semifinalists participate in individual and group discussions on current issues, American government, and current and former political leaders. Semifinalists need not prepare for the Springfield portion of the selection process and no written exam will be given.
- Travel and all other costs associated with coming to Springfield are the responsibility of the applicants. The letter notifying students of their selection as a semifinalist will contain the information on the date and time of the session assigned to each student. Each session will last approximately three hours.
- The two finalists, two alternates, and the remaining semifinalists will receive written notification of the judges' selections by mid-December 2018. If a finalist is unable to participate in the United States Senate Youth Program in Washington, D.C., March 2-9, 2019, an alternate will be selected to participate.

#### College Scholarship Requirements

To receive the Hearst Scholarship of \$10,000, a student must:

- Participate in the week-long trip to Washington, D.C. All students must agree to fully block both arrival and departure travel days to participate in Washington Week.
- Use the funds within four years after enrollment at an accredited U.S. college or university.
- Pledge to include courses in history, political science, or related subjects in his or her undergraduate program.
- No tours or trips will be permitted by individual delegates while traveling to or from Washington D.C., or while in Washington, D.C.

#### Additional Information

- Students are prohibited from engaging in lobbying, petitioning, protesting, or participating in overt political activism in the presence of speakers at any venues that are visited and on social media during Washington Week. Students will refrain from other politically charged actions during the program week, including wearing political articles of clothing, pins, buttons, or other symbols of political activism.
- For more detailed information, visit the United States Senate Youth Program website at <https://ussenateyouth.org/>.
- For an electronic copy of the brochure, click on <https://ussenateyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/2019-Official-USSYP-Brochure.pdf>.
- Contact Liz Hiler, principal consultant at the Illinois State Board of Education, at [ussyp@isbe.net](mailto:ussyp@isbe.net) or (217) 524-4832 if you have questions.