

**2009-2010 North Carolina Application Guidelines For
The 48th Annual United States Senate Youth Program
Sponsored By The William Randolph Hearst Foundation**

Introduction

The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP), established in 1962 by U.S. Senate Resolution, will be held in Washington, D.C., from **March 6 - 13, 2010**. Two student leaders from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity will spend a week in Washington experiencing their national government in action. Delegates will hear major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, officials for the Departments of State and Defense and directors of federal agencies, as well as participate in a meeting with a Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Each delegate will be awarded a \$5,000 College Scholarship for undergraduate studies. To receive the Hearst Scholarship a student must:

- ◆ Participate in the week-long trip to Washington, D.C.
- ◆ Enroll in an accredited U.S. college or university within two years of high school graduation; and
- ◆ Pledge to include courses in government or related subjects in his or her undergraduate program.

The William Randolph Hearst Foundation will pay all expenses for the week in Washington, including transportation, hotel accommodations and meals.

Eligibility Requirements

To apply for the Senate Youth Program, a student *must be* a **junior** or **senior** in high school who is *currently* serving in an elected or appointed capacity in student government or a related organization. *Specifically*, a candidate **must** be serving in one of the following capacities:

- ◆ Student body president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer;
- ◆ Class president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer;
- ◆ Student council representative; or
- ◆ Student representative elected or selected (selected by a panel, commission, or board) to district, regional, or state-level civic or educational organization.

Also, the student must be a permanent resident of the United States, currently be enrolled in a public, private, or charter secondary school in North Carolina, and have at least one parent or guardian who is a legal resident of North Carolina. A student who graduates (completes high school) at the end of the fall 2009 semester/quarter **is not eligible** to apply.

Criteria for Selection

The Hearst Foundation stresses the following qualities:

- ◆ Leadership ability;
- ◆ High scholarship standing and other demonstrated abilities;
- ◆ Clear speech and logical thought;
- ◆ Community involvement;
- ◆ Strong knowledge of U.S. government, history and politics; and
- ◆ Participation in a wide selection of activities on and off campus such as sports, arts, and/or politics.



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Application

The North Carolina Senate Youth program application is available on the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction website at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/socialstudies/>. Please complete reading this document of guidelines before downloading an application.

Application Process

In order to be considered for the Senate Youth program, a student must:

1. Submit a **completed application** to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh on or before the **October 9, 2009** deadline;
2. Send in an attached **typed one-page information sheet** responding to each area on the Applicant Description Sheet–**Form A**;
3. Send in an attached **typed two-page essay** responding to the question the application asks applicants to address on **Form B**;
4. Send in **two typed letters of endorsement**- one from a teacher and one from a sponsor of an organization in which the student is a current active participant;
5. Send in an attached digital presentation (Digital Presentation Guidelines found on **Form C**) or the web link where the applicant's digital presentation can be found; and
6. Obtain his or her principal, counselor, and parental/guardian signature on the application along with their own.

Sending Entry Instructions

Only completed and typed applications will be accepted. **Faxed copies WILL NOT be accepted.**

Please **send electronic attachments** of the following requirements: **1)** a completed application, **2)** the Student Description Sheet-Form A, **3)** the essay-Form B and **4)** two typed letters of recommendation, and **5)** the digital presentation to mmclaughlin81@gmail.com.

Send the **original completed copy** of each of these requirements (*with the exception of the digital presentation which should be sent to mmclaughlin81@gmail.com*) to:

Michelle McLaughlin
6th Floor Social Studies Department
Department of Public Instruction
Division of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

North Carolina's Selection Process

- ◆ A panel of reviewers will read and select semi-finalists.
- ◆ Semi-finalists will be invited to Raleigh in November for the final selection process. Each semi-finalist will have an interview with a panel of judges as an **opportunity to demonstrate knowledge of American government, current political issues and trends, global connectedness and political leaders.**
- ◆ Semi-finalists will take a qualifying exam that has been provided by the Hearst Foundation that will test their knowledge of American history, Supreme Court cases, current political issues, and United States as well as North Carolina government.
- ◆ The two finalists, two alternates, and the remaining semi-finalists will receive written notification of the judges' selections by early December, 2009. If a finalist is unable to participate in the U.S. Senate Youth Program in Washington, D.C., **March 6 - 13, 2010**, an alternate will be selected to participate.



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Forms Applicants Will Need

Students who are eligible and think that they may want to apply for this year's opportunity to represent North Carolina in Washington, D.C. will need to access the forms and guideline information listed below. These forms can be found at the NC Department of Public Instruction's Social Studies website – <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/socialstudies/>.

- 1) An Application Form
- 2) A Applicant Description Sheet - **Form A**
- 3) An Essay Prompt Sheet - **Form B**
- 4) A Digital Presentation Guidelines Form - **Form C**

Additional Information

- ◆ For more detailed information, visit the United States Senate Youth Program website at www.usenateyouth.org
- ◆ For an electronic copy of the official William Randolph Hearst United States Senate Youth Brochure go to <http://hearstfdn.org/ussyp/>.
- ◆ Please direct questions or comments to Michelle McLaughlin at her Department of Public Instruction email mmclaughlin@dpi.state.nc.us or 919.807.3924.

