

A photograph of the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C., featuring its iconic white dome and neoclassical architecture under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The building is surrounded by green lawns and some trees in the foreground.

**UNITED STATES
SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM
SCHOLARSHIPS**

Washington selection process for United States Senate Youth Program

The United States Senate Youth Program is sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. Each year two high school juniors or seniors from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia attend the all-expenses paid, weeklong tour of Washington, D.C., and receive a \$5,000 scholarship. Each state determines their own selection process. Since the inception of the Senate Youth program in 1962, OSPI has authorized the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP) to be the lead organization for the Washington state selection process.

Each summer AWSP sponsors seven weeklong Student Leadership Camps for student body officers, class officers and other emerging student leaders. Our principal sponsored summer leadership camps serve approximately 2000 high school student leaders each summer and are open to all students in Washington. Students who meet the requirements of the Senate Youth Program have the opportunity to apply through their participation in AWSP leadership camps. The camp experience provides for an opportunity to not only screen through a paper application, but to witness leadership in action throughout the week. It also allows for an interview as part of the initial screening. The selection committee is made up of school administrators, teachers and counselors working at camp each week. A selection process is identified, announced and implemented at each camp session with two students being selected as state finalists and two as alternates.

In the fall, AWSP appoints a committee of secondary school principals to examine the transcripts and recommendations for the 14 students nominated. These finalists compete through a current events exam, a written essay and a formal interview. Two are selected to receive the United States Senate Youth Scholarship.

Please note that the only way to become eligible for the United States Senate Youth Scholarship is to attend one of the AWSP sponsored Student Leadership Camps held at either the Cispus Learning Center or the Chewelah Peak Learning Center in the summer prior to the fall selection process. Attendance is not a guarantee. A student must be selected as a finalist at the camp session they attend. Students entering their Junior or Senior year are eligible for nomination. The state winners travel to Washington, DC, during February/March following their selection. The United States Senate Youth Program determines trip dates.

Registration materials for the summer Student Leadership programs are available online at <http://www.AWSLeaders.org> To receive registration materials by mail please contact Susan Fortin, Executive Director, Association of Washington Student Leaders, 2142 Cispus Road, Randle, Washington 98377, call 360.497.5323, or e-mail susanf@awsp.org.

