

**Illinois 2011-12 Student Application Information
for the
50th Annual United States Senate Youth Program
Sponsored by the
William Randolph Hearst Foundation**

Eligibility Requirements

A student must be a junior or senior high school student currently serving in an elected or selected capacity in student government or a related organization, and plans to take government courses in college. 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 representatives, or
- student representative elected or selected (selected by a panel, commission, or board) to district, regional, or state-level civic or educational organization.

Also, a student must be a permanent resident of the United States, 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,
- clear speech and logical thought,
- community involvement, and
- participation in a wide selection of activities on and off campus such as sports, arts, and/or politics.

Application

The application is on the back page of this document. It may also be found via a link at the bottom of the webpage at www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/hearst.htm. 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 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 5, 2011. Only complete applications will be accepted; **faxed copies will not be accepted.** Applicants who desire verification of receipt of their application should use certified mail.

Selection Process in Illinois

- For the purpose of selecting semi-finalists, Illinois is divided into six areas. In each area, a multi-county committee of regional school superintendents reviews the applications of students from its area. The committee in each area selects the semi-finalists.
- In Springfield on Thursday and Friday, November 17 and 18, 2011, a three-judge panel will interview the 18 semi-finalists. Included in the Springfield phase are individual and group discussions on current issues, American government, and current and former political leaders. Semi-finalists need make no preparations for their interviews in Springfield and no written exam will be given. Semi-finalists are judged on the criteria cited above.
- Travel and all other costs associated with coming to Springfield are the responsibility of the applicants.
- The two finalists, two alternates, and the remaining semi-finalists will receive written notification of the judges' selections by mid-December 2011. If a finalist is unable to participate in the U.S. Senate Youth Program in Washington, D.C., March 3-10, 2012, an alternate will be selected to participate.

College Scholarship Requirements

To receive the Hearst Scholarship of \$5,000, a student must:

- participate in the week-long trip to Washington, D.C.;
- enroll at 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.

Additional Information

- For more detailed information, visit the U.S. Senate Youth Program website at www.usenateyouth.org.
- For an electronic copy of the brochure enclosed, click on the link at the bottom of the webpage at www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/hearst.htm.
- For questions in Illinois, contact Ms. Sally Veach, Principal Education Consultant, Illinois State Board of Education, at sveach@isbe.net or 217/782-5589.

Completed applications must be received in the Springfield office by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 5, 2011.

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Education and Support Systems Division
100 North First Street, N-253
Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001

APPLICATION FOR
THE UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM/WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST SCHOLARSHIP

INSTRUCTIONS: Type or print neatly.

NAME OF STUDENT (Last, First, Middle) <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.		HOME TELEPHONE (Include Area Code)				
HOME ADDRESS (Street, City, State, Zip Code)		COUNTY OF RESIDENCE				
		E-MAIL ADDRESS OF STUDENT (Required)				
NAME OF PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN		BUSINESS TELEPHONE OF PARENT (Include Area Code)				
CURRENT ELECTED OFFICE(S)*						
NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL		SCHOOL TELEPHONE (Include Area Code)				
SCHOOL ADDRESS (Street, City, State, Zip Code)						
APPLICANT'S CURRENT YEAR IN SCHOOL <input type="checkbox"/> Junior <input type="checkbox"/> Senior	DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY)	NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL				
SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME AND NUMBER		HIGH SCHOOL GRADE POINT AVERAGE				
		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Last Semester</td> <td>All Semesters</td> <td>Highest Possible GPA</td> </tr> </table>		Last Semester	All Semesters	Highest Possible GPA
Last Semester	All Semesters	Highest Possible GPA				
		E-MAIL ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL				
NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT		NAME OF REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT				
NAME OF YOUR STATE SENATOR AND DISTRICT NUMBER		NAME OF YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND DISTRICT NUMBER				

* To be eligible, a candidate must currently be serving in an elected or selected capacity in any one of the following student government, civic or educational organizations:

- Student body president, vice-president, secretary or treasurer
- Class president, vice-president, secretary or treasurer
- Student council representative
- Student representative to district, regional or state-level civic or educational organization

Please attach to this application a typed narrative (not to exceed two pages) describing:

- Your involvement in student government and community service;
- Achievements, especially leadership experiences, that would support your selection as a candidate;
- Ways in which your participation in this year's William Randolph Hearst Foundation United States Senate Youth Program will enhance your interest in and understanding of this country's political and governmental processes; and
- Ways in which your participation will benefit those you come in contact with, your school, and area schools.

I affirm that I am the sole author of the attached essay.

_____ Date

_____ Signature of Student

I hereby certify that the above named student is a junior or senior in good standing, holds the elected office(s) identified above and has presented accurate GPA information. I also certify that the student's parent or legal guardian resides in Illinois and that this district does not traverse state lines.

_____ Date

_____ Signature of Principal

FOR HAND DELIVERIES: Applications must be delivered to the address at the top of the page by 5 p.m., October 5, 2011.