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GOVERNOR

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
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NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0375

TIMOTHY K. WEBB, Ed.D  
COMMISSIONER

August 1, 2009

Dear School Counselor,

I am pleased to announce that Tennessee will once again participate in the *United States Senate Youth Program*.

Placed on the Advisory List of National Contests and Activities by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, *The United States Senate Youth Program* provides an amazing opportunity for qualifying youth. Not only will the selected youth spend the week of March 6-13, 2010 in Washington D.C., but the student delegates will be immersed in Washington activities throughout the week's stay. Visits to the Senate, House of Representatives, Supreme Court and the Pentagon are interspersed with visits to various Smithsonian museums. Delegates will hear major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, officials of the Departments of State and Defense.

All expenses will be covered by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. And, if that's not enough, the foundation will make available to each delegate a **five thousand dollar scholarship award**, subject to the conditions and requirements specified in the program rules. Certificates representing a \$5,000 scholarship award will be presented to delegates during their visit to Washington - often personally by their senators.

Any high school junior or senior is eligible provided he or she is currently serving in an elected or selected capacity in any one of the following student government, civic or educational organizations:

1. Student body president, vice president, secretary or treasurer
2. Class president, vice president, secretary or treasurer
3. Student council representative
4. Student representative elected or selected (selected by a panel, commission or board) to district, regional or state level civic or educational organizations.

Each student must be a permanent resident of the United States and currently enrolled in a public or private secondary school located in the state in which either one of his or her parents or guardians resides. (For exceptions to this, see the official program brochure.) [http://www.hearstfdn.org/ussyp/selection\\_process\\_qualify.php](http://www.hearstfdn.org/ussyp/selection_process_qualify.php)

Any school wishing to submit a representative for district competition should follow the instructions outlined in the attached **Tennessee Procedures for Participation in the United States Senate Youth Program, 2009-2010**. A school should submit only one candidate. All application forms may be found at:

If you have any problems or questions regarding this program please contact me at 615.741-5273 [brenda.ables@tn.gov](mailto:brenda.ables@tn.gov) , or Lana Ream at 615 253-6023 [lana.ream@tn.gov](mailto:lana.ream@tn.gov) . Thank you for your support of our Tennessee students and the United States Senate Youth Program.

Sincerely,

Brenda Ables

## **TENNESSEE PROCEDURES FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM 2009-2010**

The rules outlined in the RULES AND SCHOLARSHIP REGULATIONS will be followed in Tennessee. Competition will be conducted at three levels: local school, district, and state.

### **1. LOCAL SCHOOL LEVEL**

Students participating at the local school level shall be selected on scholarship, citizenship and leadership. The students shall be recommended by the principal and faculty of the school where they are enrolled and must have an overall grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. The students shall also take a test which will serve as a basis for final selection at the school level.

When a high school desires to participate, the principal or a designee will notify Brenda Ables, Social Studies Coordinator for the Tennessee Department of Education, division of Curriculum and Instruction, as indicated on the attached School Participation Form. Schools wishing to participate must submit the form or notify [Brenda.Ables@state.tn.us](mailto:Brenda.Ables@state.tn.us) or [Lana.Ream@state.tn.us](mailto:Lana.Ream@state.tn.us) via email. Once a participation form has been received, testing materials will be sent for selection at the local school level. Additional activities such as interviews and essay writing may be added to the school level competition if so desired. Only one student may be selected by the school to participate in district competition. The student must be a junior or senior currently serving in an elected capacity in any one of the following student government offices:

- a.) student body president, vice president, secretary or treasurer
- b.) class president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer
- c.) student council representative
- d.) student representative to district, regional, or state-level civic or educational organization.

Once a school winner has been selected, that student must complete and submit an application to be considered for district level competition. An application form will accompany the testing materials requested by the principal or designee and may also be accessed online at [http://tn.gov/education/ci/senate\\_youth/index.shtml](http://tn.gov/education/ci/senate_youth/index.shtml). Completed applications must be mailed to ***Brenda Ables, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower, 710 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0379.*** The deadline to be in this office is Friday, October 16, 2009.

### **2. DISTRICT LEVEL**

The applications of the local school winners will be screened by a panel of judges. Nine students, one representing each of Tennessee's congressional districts, will be selected to participate in state level competition. Each district winner and his or her principal will be notified regarding time and location of the state competition.

### **3. STATE LEVEL**

The district winners will compete at the state level in Nashville on Friday, November 13, 2009. The state level competition will consist of an interview by a panel of judges. Students must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or school official. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in the student's disqualification. Travel expenses will be underwritten by the Tennessee Department of Education consistent with state travel regulations.