64th Annual
UNITED STATES SENATE
★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★
EDUCATION • LEADERSHIP • PUBLIC SERVICE • RESPECT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Utah Students Selected for United States Senate Youth Program

Students Headed to Washington, D. C. and to Receive $10,000 College Scholarship

January 12, 2026, Washington, D.C. — The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) is pleased to announce that high school students Mr. Isaiah Ji-Sum Holland and Mr. Jared Taylor Schneider will join Senator Mike Lee and Senator John Curtis in representing Utah during the 64th annual USSYP Washington Week, to be held March 7 — 14, 2026.

Isaiah Holland of Bountiful and Jared Schneider of Layton were selected from among the state's top student leaders. They will join the delegation of 104 outstanding high school students - two from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity - for an intensive week-long study of the federal government and the people who lead it, meeting with Senators, the President, a Supreme Court Justice, and other high-level officials. Each delegate will also receive a $10,000 undergraduate college scholarship with encouragement to continue coursework in government, history and public affairs.

About the 2026 USSYP Delegates:

Isaiah Holland, a senior at Farmington High School, serves as a Student Body Service Officer, leading initiatives that strengthen school and community connections. He recently organized and led a school-wide fundraising campaign that raised $40,000 to support the construction of an all-abilities, inclusive community playground. He has served as an Inclusion Class Officer, a student representative on the Davis School District Multicultural Advisory Council, and a student-coach for the Unified Soccer Team, which unites students with and without intellectual disabilities through athletics. A graduate of the Chinese Immersion program, he has hosted exchange students from Taiwan, helping them navigate language and culture during their stay in the United States. He holds a second-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do, is a member of the National Honor Society, and volunteers with the United Way and Volunteers of America. After graduation, Isaiah plans to continue growing his business, recently awarded a grant from the Davis Catalyst Center, serve a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and pursue degrees in accountancy and law. He aspires to become a community-focused entrepreneur and leader dedicated to uplift communities and create sustainable opportunities for underrepresented groups.

Jared Schneider, a senior at Northern Utah Academy for Math Engineering and Science, serves as the Student Body Secretary. He is currently pursuing an engineering-oriented education and is on track to receive his pre-engineering associate's degree this spring. However, because of his experiences with leadership, he is considering an alternate educational path. In his time as a Lead Attorney in Mock Trial, Jared has developed a passion for public speaking. At Utah Boys State, he discovered a love for the law and country. As First Assistant in his religious community he has strengthened his testimony of service and now desires to serve others in a greater capacity. Jared is considering a path in political science, public administration, and the military. He also loves to blow off steam in country swing dancing, participating in clubs and local dance communities.

Chosen as alternates to the 2026 program were Ms. Katharine Collings, a resident of Orem, who attends Timpanogos High School and Mr. Karston Bailey, a resident of Ogden, who attends Weber High School.

Delegates and alternates are selected by the state departments of education, including the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activities, after nomination by teachers and principals. The chief state school officer for each jurisdiction confirms the final selection. This year's Utah delegates and alternates were designated by Molly Hart, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

About The United States Senate Youth Program

The 2026 United States Senate Youth Program Co-Chairs are Senator Katie Britt of Alabama and Senator Edward J. Markey of Massachusetts. The full USSYP Senate Advisory Committee consists of the Vice President of the United States and the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders who annually serve as the program's Honorary Co-Chairs; two Senators, one from each party, serving as acting Co-Chairs who each have keynote speaking roles, and an eight-member bipartisan Senate panel, four Senators from each party, who lend their names in support. Serving on the Advisory Committee for the upcoming program are: Senator John Barrasso, M.D. of Wyoming, Senator Steve Daines of Montana, Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith of Mississippi, Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada, Senator Andy Kim of New Jersey, Senator Angus S. King, Jr. of Maine, and Senator Elissa Slotkin of Michigan.

The USSYP is a competitive, merit-based program created by Senate Resolution 324 in 1962 by the sons of William Randolph Hearst and the Senate leadership of the day - Senators Kuchel, Mansfield, Dirksen, and Humphrey. The USSYP is designed to encourage America's most talented young people to consider public service as an important, life-long, and noble pursuit. Senate Resolution 324 passed unanimously.

The Hearst Foundations have fully funded the program since inception, as stipulated in SR 324, no government funds are utilized.

USSYP alumni now number more than 6,300 and many go on to build legacies of public service. The distinguished alumni include Senator Susan Collins, the first USSYP delegate to be elected U.S. Senator; former Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, the first to be appointed as a Cabinet Secretary; Representative Sarah McBride, the second to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; former Senator Cory Gardner, the second alumnus to be elected U.S. Senator and the first to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, the first to be elected Governor.

For more information, please visit ussenateyouth.org

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