**United State Senate Youth Program**

Logistics Memo

**Welcome to the United States Senate Youth Program!** Below you will find all of the information you need to participate in this state competition. The Louisiana delegates will be selected on November 15, 2013.

1. Student Selection Information
2. Submission Information
3. United States Senate Youth State Timeline
4. Student Application

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**1. Student Selection Information**

**The following guidelines for nominating students should be followed:**

* The superintendent of each public school district may recommend one student from the nominees of district public schools and district-approved charter schools.
* The superintendent of each diocese may recommend one nonpublic school student from each civil parish in that diocese.
* The principal of each Type 2 and each Type 5 charter school may recommend one student from that school.
* The principal of each university laboratory school not under the jurisdiction of a school district may recommend one student from that school.

**2. Submission information**

The names of the students selected and their application portfolios must be received at the address below no later October 18, 2013.

 Marian Johnson, Program Coordinator

 Louisiana Department of Education

 Office of Content, Room 4-207

 P.O. Box 94064

 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9064

**3. United States Senate Youth Timeline**

**Applicants must be:**

* Juniors or Senior who have been elected or appointed to a student government, civic, or educational organization
* A permanent resident of the United States
* Enrolled in a public or private secondary school in the state which their parent or guardian resides

**Timeline:**

September, 2013 Letters and forms are sent to non-public high schools informing them of the competition and deadlines. An information blurb is placed in the Core Connection for all public and charter high schools, notifying them of the competition and relevant deadlines.

October, 2013 Schools and districts select their nominee, assist with the compilation of the portfolio, and proctor the essay that must be included in the portfolio.

**October 18, 2013 Deadline for submission of the portfolio to the LDOE**

November 1, 2013 Notification to the top 4 portfolios submissions are invited to complete

the final interview and test.

November 15, 2013 Interview, test, and reception in the North Dakota Room (1-155) in the Claiborne Building

December 1, 2013 Names must be submitted to the Hearst Foundation (two winners and two alternates)

March 8-15, 2014 Fifty-second Annual Washington Week, Washington, D.C.

**United State Senate Youth Program**

Student Application

**Student Data Form**

Student’s Name

Grade Level/Age \_\_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School District \_\_\_\_\_\_

School Name and Address

School Telephone Number

School Fax Number

Email Address for School Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_\_

Parents’ or Guardians’ Names

Parents’ or Guardians’ Work Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Parents’ or Guardians’ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number

School Elective Office Held \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

To complete the student’s portfolio, use separate pages for each of the items below:

* Principal’s letter of recommendation
* Academic achievements (1 page)
* School and Extracurricular activities (1 page)
* School elective offices and honors (1 page)
* Citizenship and community involvement (1 page)
* Description of hobbies and future plans (1 page)
* Statement from the principal or faculty affirming that the student received no assistance in writing the essay and he/she completed the essay within the time limit
* The completed essay written according to the provided guidelines. Essay topics should not be issued prior to the writing session.
* The compiled portfolio is submitted to the Louisiana Department of Education by the appropriate school or district.

 **Essay Topics, plus submission requirements:**

**Time Limit:** 60 minutes

**Proctor Responsibilities:**

* The proctor should remain in the room to ensure that external resources are not used by the student and that time parameters are honored.
* The essay may be completed electronically or handwritten and submitted as part of the applicant’s portfolio.
* A dictionary or thesaurus should be made available to the student.

**The Essay:**

Write an essay of 300 words or less exploring as fully as possible any one of the following issues. Label your essay with the corresponding number chosen for that topic.

1. In 2011, Congress passed a law saying that if members couldn’t agree on a plan to reduce our deficit by $4 trillion, arbitrary and across the board budget cuts would start to take effect in 2013. Has Congress failed to live up to its responsibilities as the first branch of government under the Constitution? How has the polarization of the two major political parties contributed, if at all to Congress’s difficulties? Be specific in discussing the positive or negative impacts of recent legislation initiatives.
2. The National Security Agency (NSA) and Central Security Service are charged with the protection of the U.S. national security systems and to produce foreign signals intelligence information. How has their mission to collect, process, and disseminate intelligence information from foreign signals for intelligence impacted governmental operations nationally and internationally? Be specific in discussing the positive or negative impacts of their actions.
3. The separation of church and state refers to the distance in the relationship between organized religion and the nation state. There are varying degrees of separation depending on a country’s legal structures and established religious perspectives. Discuss how this has been a factor with the current health care reform measures. How might this tension be resolved or eased? Be specific with possible resolutions.
4. In 1945, with the European and Chinese economies in shambles from the devastating effects of World War 2, the United States experienced a huge increase in immigration from European, Spanish-speaking and Asian countries. Fast forward to 2010 and the Immigration Reform of 2013, why has America, who once welcomed those wishing to come to America to live “the American Dream”, changed its position on those seeking that same idea? What elements of compromise should be addressed by opposing parties?

**­­­­­­­­­­­­**