



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Questions about your state's delegates, alternates or state selection process:  
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**Wyoming Students Selected for United States Senate Youth Program**  
**Students Headed to Washington, D. C. and to Receive \$10,000 Scholarship**

**January 13, 2025, Washington, D.C.** —The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) is pleased to announce that high school students Ms. Deanna Davis and Mr. Henry David Phillips will join Senator John Barrasso and Senator Cynthia Lummis in representing Wyoming during the 63rd annual USSYP Washington Week, to be held March 1 — 8, 2025. Deanna Davis of Cheyenne and Henry Phillips of Sheridan were selected from among the state's top student leaders to be part of the 104 national student delegation that will attend meetings and briefings with senators, the president, a justice of the Supreme Court, leaders of cabinet agencies, and other officials throughout the week. Each delegate will also receive a \$10,000 college scholarship for undergraduate study.

The USSYP was founded in 1962 by the sons of William Randolph Hearst and the senate leadership of the day -- Senators Kuchel, Mansfield, Dirksen and Humphrey – in response to the deep divisiveness and national anxiety following the McCarthy era. They outlined a plan to encourage America's most talented young people to consider public service as an important, life-long, and noble pursuit, sponsoring Senate Resolution 324, which passed unanimously. As stated in founding testimony, the program strives "to increase young Americans' understanding of the interrelationships of the three branches of government, learn the caliber and responsibilities of federally elected and appointed officials, and emphasize the vital importance of democratic decision making not only for America but for people around the world."

Each year this extremely competitive merit-based program provides two outstanding high school students from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity with an intensive week-long study of the federal government and the people who lead it. Each student will also receive a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship with encouragement to continue coursework in government, history and public affairs. The Hearst Foundations have fully funded the program since inception; as stipulated, no government funds are utilized. ([United State Senate Resolution 324](#))

Deanna Davis, a senior at Cheyenne South High School, serves as president of the Student Body and secretary of the National Honor Society. Deanna's political involvement includes competing in the We the People program, where her team placed second in the state, and participating in Wyoming Girls State, where she represented Wyoming at Girls Nation as the majority party election committee chair. She was the sole student election judge in Laramie County during the 2024 primary and general elections and is an active member of the League of Women Voters of Cheyenne. Deanna plans to pursue a degree in political science at the University of Wyoming.

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Henry Phillips, a senior at Sheridan High School, serves as treasurer of the National Honor Society. He is a dedicated leader and serves his community, with his most significant political experience coming through the We The People program, where he helped his team win the state competition and travel to Washington, D.C., for the national contest. This experience sharpened his critical thinking, research, and public speaking skills, as his team engaged in challenging discussions on complex political issues. Henry competes for the Sheridan High School Nordic skiing team, and enjoys the comradery, fellowship, challenge, and time in the outdoors. Henry feels gratitude for his community's support of youth as they search for a place in the world, understanding that everyone in the Sheridan community has contributed to education and opportunity for young people. His faith is important to him, and he serves his church through youth group leadership and missions trip fundraisers. He would like to attend college and study engineering at University of Wyoming, the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology or Harvard.

Chosen as alternates to the 2025 program were Ms. Skylar Bishop, a resident of Laramie, who attends Laramie High School and Ms. Preslee Fitzwater, a resident of Newcastle, who attends Newcastle High School.

Delegates and alternates are selected by the state departments of education nationwide and the District of Columbia and Department of Defense Education Activity, after nomination by teachers and principals. The chief state school officer for each jurisdiction confirms the final selection. This year's Wyoming delegates and alternates were designated by Megan Degenfelder, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

In addition to outstanding leadership abilities and a strong commitment to volunteer work, the student delegates rank academically in the top one percent of their states among high school juniors and seniors. Now more than 6,200 strong, alumni of the program continue to excel and develop impressive qualities that are often directed toward public service. Among the many distinguished alumni are: Senator Susan Collins, the first alumna to be elected U.S. senator; Secretary of Transportation and former Mayor of South Bend Indiana, Pete Buttigieg, the first alumna to be appointed as a cabinet secretary; Representative Sarah McBride, the second alumna to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; former Senator Cory Gardner, the second alumna 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 alumna to be elected governor.

Members of the U. S. Senate Youth Program 2025 annual Senate Advisory Committee are: Senator Thom Tillis of North Carolina, the 2025 USSYP Republican Co-Chair and Senator Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, the 2025 USSYP Democratic Co-Chair. The full USSYP Senate Advisory Committee includes the vice president of the United States and the Senate majority and minority leaders, and four senators from each party who lend their names in support. Serving on the 2025 Advisory Committee: Senator Susan M. Collins of Maine, Senator John Cornyn of Texas, Senator Jerry Moran of Kansas, Senator Pete Ricketts of Nebraska, Senator Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada, Senator Tina Smith of Minnesota and Senator Peter Welch of Vermont.

**For more information please visit: [www.ussenateyouth.org](http://www.ussenateyouth.org)**

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