



Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

The High School Leaders Program July 7 – July 21, 2012



The Sorensen Institute's High School Leaders Program provides intensive training in state and local government, politics, leadership, and public service to students from across the Commonwealth of Virginia. The program is based on a firm belief that young people not only *can* make a positive difference in their communities, they should be strongly encouraged to do so. The two-week HSLP is held each summer on grounds at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. The Sorensen network of graduates includes 20 members of the General Assembly, and countless other politically involved individuals from across the Commonwealth.

Curriculum

The HSLP curriculum is divided into three primary learning modules:

The Informed Citizen: Virginia Government and Politics—focuses on the basics of Virginia state and local government; who the players are, how government functions, and what the primary issues facing Virginia are.

The Thoughtful Citizen: Virginia Public Policy—explores how public policy is formed and debated in the Commonwealth. Students learn how to engage positively and effectively in policy debates and learn how they can influence public policy.

The Active Citizen: The Tools of Modern Advocacy—gives students the hands-on training and real-world skills that they will need to make their ideas a reality. They will learn how to write a powerful op-ed, to pitch stories to the media and hold press conferences, to give effective radio and television interviews, and to personally lobby issues with legislators.

Participants

A typical High School Leaders Program class includes approximately 30 students. All students attending a public or private Virginia high school, or a Virginia resident attending high school in another state, are eligible to participate. Each class aims to reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of Virginia's population. To be eligible for the High School Leaders Program, applicants must be at least 16-years old by July 1 of their program year or at least entering their junior year of high school in the fall of their program year, and in good academic standing at an accredited institution. The class is also open to graduating seniors.

For more information please visit: <http://sorenseninstitute.com/programs/hslp>

"Once upon a time, politics was viewed as a noble profession. Sorensen reminds us that it is and can be again."

-Delegate Jennifer McClellan

Sorensen Alumnae and State Advisory Board Member

For more information, contact Lauren Gilbert, Director of Youth Programs at 434-243-2844 or lauren.gilbert@virginia.edu. Tuition for the HSLP Class of 2012 is \$1,625. Scholarships and financial aid are available and admission is need-blind. The application deadline is **March 5, 2011 at 5:00pm**.