



COUNCIL *for* OPPORTUNITY *in* EDUCATION

2025 COE NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONGRESS DIRECTOR HANDBOOK

June 15-19, 2025



UPDATED January 2025

NSLC: A TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE For First-Generation High School Students

The Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) is excited to host the 36th annual National Student Leadership Congress (NSLC). In summer 2025, 100 TRIO high school student delegates from Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math-Science and Talent Search programs across the United States and territories participate in a rigorous 5-day leadership experience in Washington, D.C. During the Leadership Congress, the student delegates sleep, study, and dine on the campus of American University. In addition to meeting their Senators and Representatives on Capitol Hill, delegates participate in community service projects, college, and career planning workshops, and engaging in a Mock Congress. This requires students to research critical policy issues, draft legislation, and debate with their peers.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Increased awareness of leadership potential.
- Enhanced leadership skills in decision making, planning, goal setting, conflict resolution, and negotiating.
- Greater knowledge of the role of individuals and alliances in shaping national priorities; and career opportunities in government, public service, and education.
- Increased understanding of the responsibilities of citizenship through service.

PROGRAM AGENDA

The 2025 student agenda is currently being confirmed. You can find a draft of the 2025 Agenda at this link, <https://bit.ly/25NSLCDraftAgenda>.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Outstanding students from the Class of **2026** and **2027** are encouraged to apply to serve as delegates for the 2025 National Student Leadership Congress. Students should be prepared for a rigorous program that will challenge them and provide an intensive learning experience. Selected students must be in attendance for the entirety of the program which takes place **June 15–19, 2025**. This program is for new applicants only; returning students may not apply.

Students Must:

- Participate in a TRIO Talent Search, Upward Bound, or UBMS program that is an Institutional Member of the Council for Opportunity in Education.
- Be a member of the graduating class of **2026** or **2027**.
- Maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA*.

**If a student does not meet the GPA requirement but you feel they could benefit from participating in NSLC, please contact Angela Holley at: angela.holley@coenet.org or by phone at 1-202-347-7430.*

HOW CAN STUDENTS APPLY?

Up to **four** students can apply per campus.

If a campus has two TRIO programs on the same campus, the projects must work together to determine which four students will be selected to apply. For example, if a UB program wants to nominate three students and a TS program on the same campus wishes to nominate three students, the programs would need to work together to determine which four students will move forward with the application process.

Student applications must be submitted by no later than **5:00 p.m. ET on February 24, 2025**. The link to the online application is <http://app.campdoc.com/register/coe>.

Application Tips:

- All questions must be completed to move forward in the online application. If a question does not apply, please enter “N/A” in that field.
- Please check the accuracy of the student’s address as this will be used when setting up a meeting with Senators or Congressional Representatives.
- When entering the student email, please **do not** use a school email address since school systems often have technology in place that blocks COE correspondence. It is recommended that applicants use a personal email address.
- Please record G.P.A on a **4.0 scale**.
- Make sure that the **TRIO Staff Recommendation form** is completed, signed by a TRIO staff member, and uploaded into the online application.
- It is **highly recommended** that a TRIO staff member assist students with the application process to guarantee that all application materials are completed by the deadline.
- If there is a change in the TRIO program’s point of contact during the application process, please notify Angela Holley, Director of Student Opportunities, at angela.holley@coenet.org.

NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION STATUS

Students will be notified by email of their acceptance or waitlist status on March 10, 2025. A copy of the notification will be sent to the applicant, as well as the Director of the nominating TRIO program.

REGISTRATION FEE

The cost per student for the 2025 NSLC is **\$1,900.00**. Upon notification of student acceptance, the Director will receive an invoice for the student registration fee. Registration is an **allowable** project expense (see OMB Sec. 200.405 allowable costs).

Please note that the registration fee covers the following:

- Student ground transportation throughout the event.
- All meals once the student arrives in Washington, D.C.
- Student lodging at American University which includes all bed linens.
- Two NSLC t-shirts.
- Activity fees for cultural activities.
- All educational materials for workshops and the Mock Congress.
- Onsite Nurse to address any healthcare needs.

The registration fee does not cover the following:

- Student transportation to and from Washington, D.C.
- Student meals while traveling to and from Washington, D.C.
- Baggage fees for air or train travel.
- Souvenirs that students may wish to purchase during their NSLC experience.

REFUNDS

Traditional Refund:

The payment of \$1,900 per student is due to COE by **April 1, 2025**. After this date, the students wishing to withdraw from the NSLC program **must** notify COE **in writing** by sending an email to angela.holley@coenet.org. The uncommitted portion of the registration fee (recoverable housing, meal, instructional fees) will be refunded, minus a **\$400** handling fee up to **April 30th, 2025**. No refunds will be granted after this date.

Medical Refund:

If a student registers and cancels after **May 1, 2025**, due to a health issue that impacts their ability to attend the event, the program may receive a 50% refund **WITH** a physician's letter on the physician's letterhead.

TRIO STAFF PARTICIPATION DURING THE NSLC EVENT

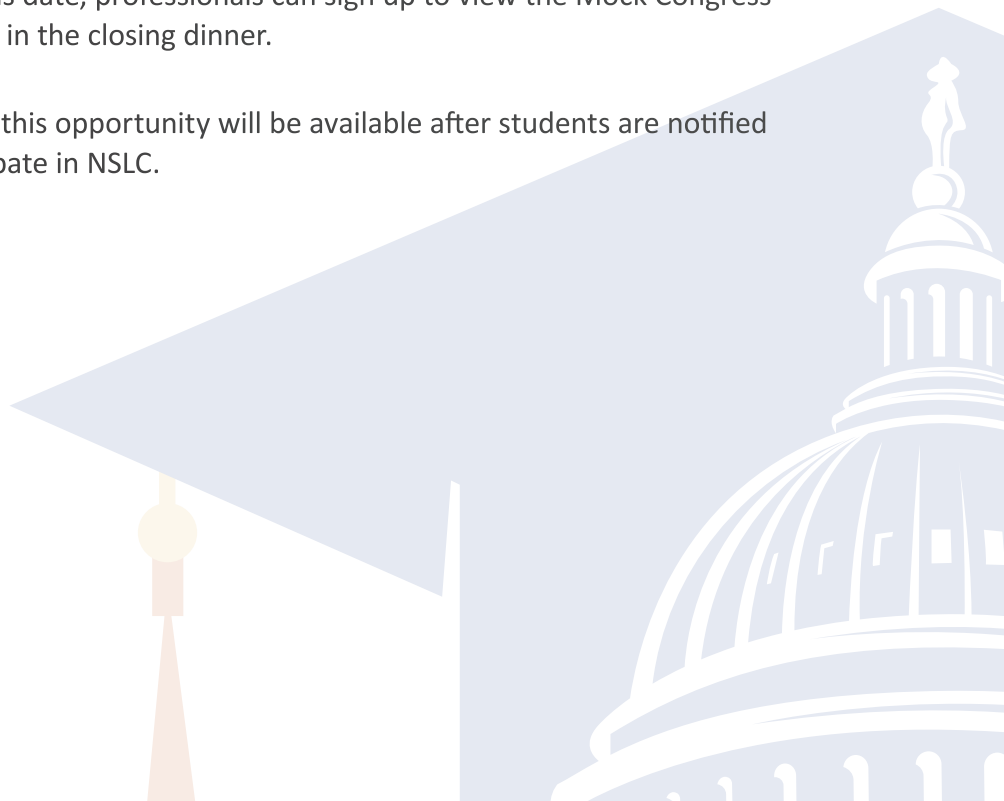
NSLC is a student-focused event. However, the following opportunity will be available for TRIO Staff who wish to travel to Washington, D.C. with their students.

Building and Sustaining Your TRIO Program is a three-day professional development event designed for college access and success professionals who actively engage with students. This multi-faceted event provides participants with information on legislation and regulations, recruiting and retaining strategies, and building strong academic and cultural activities.

This event allows program professionals to travel with their students and participate in professional development-which can be funded by grant money while their students participate in NSLC.

Please note that professionals will not be able to join students for their activities until Wednesday, June 18th. On this date, professionals can sign up to view the Mock Congress presentations and participate in the closing dinner.

Additional information about this opportunity will be available after students are notified of their acceptance to participate in NSLC.



2025 NSLC TIMELINE

- January 27, 2025** Student applications open
- February 13, 2025** **NSLC Informational Webinar** for TRIO Staff at **3:00 p.m. ET**
- February 24, 2025** Student applications are due by **5:00 p.m. ET**.
- March 10, 2025** Students and TRIO Directors notified of acceptance status.
- March 14, 2025** All student applicants must confirm their participation in NSLC.
- March 25, 2025** TRIO Director/Staff NSLC Orientation at **3:00 p.m. ET**
- March 25, 2025** NSLC Student and Family Orientation at **6:30 p.m. ET**
- April 1, 2025** NSLC registration fee is due by **5:00 p.m. ET**.
- April 2-30, 2025** Cancellations can be made with a cancellation fee of **\$400**.
- May 1, 2025** There will be **no refunds** issued from this date forward.
- May 1, 2025** All student travel information is due by **5:00 p.m. ET**.
- May 1, 2025** All student health forms are due by **5:00 p.m. ET**.
- June 15, 2025** Students arrive in Washington, D.C.
- June 19, 2025** Students depart from Washington, D.C.

