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## High School Students Can Earn a FREE Trip to Washington, D.C.

**Who:** [American Public Transportation Association \(APTA\)](#) in partnership with [PSTA](#) and transit agencies across the country

**What:** Hosting the fourth biennial transportation youth summit

**When:** June 28 – July 2, 2015

**Where:** Washington, D.C.

**Why:** To promote the benefits and career potential offered by public transportation

**How:** By selecting and engaging 50 high school students from around the country who are interested in pursuing careers in public transportation



The American Public Transportation Association is inviting high school juniors and seniors interested in careers in public transportation, to apply for an all-expense paid (by APTA) trip to our nation's capital. The trip is part of APTA's 4<sup>th</sup> biennial Transportation Youth Summit *to advance education and promote careers in public transportation.*

PSTA and APTA leaders are quick to point out that public transportation continues playing a significant role in finding solutions to numerous challenges facing America today – just it has throughout our history. “Whether it's creating and supporting job growth, a cleaner environment, energy independence, alternatives to automobile ownership or a better quality of life; where public transportation goes, community grows,” says APTA Director of Media Relations Virginia Miller. Recent studies have shown that both millennials and empty-nest Baby Boomers are now choosing urbanized living over suburbs and transportation options are a big reason why. “Since 1995, public transit ridership is up by more than 37 percent in the United States and that has outpaced both population growth and vehicle miles traveled,” adds Miller. Through programs such as the 2015 Youth Summit, APTA officials are working with younger generations to help meet the growing demand for public transit.

APTA will be selecting a diverse group of 50 students from across the nation to participate in the youth summit, which will be held in Washington, DC, June 28th through July 2nd, 2015. Students will explore the educational and environmental benefits of public transportation as well as seeing, first hand, how communities benefit from increased transportation services. They'll also learn how local and federal policies affect public transit use and development. In addition, the students will learn about the educational and career opportunities awaiting them in the public transportation industry.

Those selected will enjoy an all-expenses-paid opportunity that includes:

- Five days in the nation's capital
- Meeting lawmakers and congressional leaders
- Exploring the range of exciting career paths within the transit industry
- Learning how public transportation helps shape a brighter future
- Participating in hands-on local transit tours
- Interaction with peers from across the country who are also interested in public transportation
- Residing in a university campus venue

The summit is for rising high school sophomores and juniors (those who will be juniors and seniors in fall, 2015). Applications can be found at <http://www.apta.com/youthsummit/Pages/default.aspx> and are due by Friday, February 13, 2015. Completed applications can be submitted via email to [students@apta.com](mailto:students@apta.com) or by fax to (202) 496-4323.

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The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority is the public transit provider for Pinellas County, providing more than 14.5 million rides per year. PSTA operates nearly 40 bus and trolley routes with a fleet of 205 vehicles. To learn more about the services offered by PSTA, or for schedule and fare information, passengers are invited to call the PSTA InfoLine at (727) 540-1900, or visit [www.PSTA.net](http://www.PSTA.net). PSTA is an equal opportunity employer.