

Legislative Page Program

Frequently Asked Questions



1. When will I be notified if I have been selected as a page?

Early December. You will be notified whether you are selected or not selected. If selected, you will also receive your term assignment at that time.

2. Do I have to wait until after an election to have my application signed?

No. An incumbent legislator who is seeking reelection may sign your application at any time; however, a legislator-elect can only sign your application after being elected to the Legislature. This gives you time to meet the final deadline date on the Page Application.

3. Who is a legislator-elect?

A legislator-elect is someone who is not currently a member of the Legislature but who has been elected to serve in the Legislature beginning with the next legislative session.

4. What if my sponsor is not reelected and I have already sent my application to Pierre?

If your sponsor is a current legislator who is not reelected, the Page Advisor will contact the elected legislators from your district about sponsoring you.

5. Is it acceptable to send my application to Pierre so my sponsor may sign the application when my sponsor comes to Pierre in January?

No. If your application lacks your sponsor's signature, the application will be returned to you. Only signed applications will be considered. Stating on your application that an individual "has agreed to be my sponsor" is not sufficient.

6. The application requests two reference letters. To whom should these letters be addressed?

If you are applying to serve in the Senate, your reference letters should be addressed to the President Pro Tempore, the appointing authority in that chamber.

If you are applying to serve in the House, your reference letters should be addressed to the Speaker, the presiding officer of the House of Representatives, the appointing authority in that chamber.

7. Will I work just for the legislator who sponsors me?

No. It is your responsibility to assist any and all legislators as needed.

8. Will the Page Advisor arrange transportation for me while I am in Pierre?

No. You are responsible for your transportation during your stay in Pierre.

9. What is a standard workday?

The Legislature begins with committee meetings at 7:45 a.m., so pages need to be in the office by 7:15 a.m. Floor sessions normally convene at 2:00 p.m. The floor sessions can vary in length ranging from two hours to well after 6:00 p.m. Certain committees also have night meetings, so it is important to keep your schedule flexible. Under no circumstances is a Page to leave the Capitol without approval from the Page Advisor.

10. Will I be assigned the term of service that I listed as my first choice?

The Page Advisor makes every effort to assign you to your most preferred term of service. However, it is not always possible to accommodate all first-choice requests. **When making your choice for one of the five terms, please check your school and extra-curricular schedules first.** It may not be possible to change your term if you have chosen to participate in a school or extra-curricular activity after you have submitted the application. Check with your coach, band/choir director, drama coach, etc. on dates for basketball tournaments, band trips or performances, one act plays, debate meets, or any other activities that could coincide with this program. Most of these events are scheduled months in advance, so you should know when you can serve as a page and when you cannot.

11. Will I have a better chance of being selected if I submit more than one application?

No. Duplicate applications will be returned to you.

12. Will I have a better chance of being selected if I have more than one sponsor sign my application?

No. You should have only one sponsor. If your application has multiple sponsors, your application will be returned to you for verification of your sponsor.

13. Where will I stay while I'm in Pierre?

The Page Advisor locates housing in Pierre and Ft. Pierre for pages who have not made their own housing arrangements. The Page Advisor attempts to house pages in groups of two or more when possible. Staying in a hotel or B&B is prohibited unless you will be staying with a parent or guardian.

14. How much will my lodging cost?

Housing details such as cost and house rules are between you and the host family. These details should be agreed upon before you arrive in Pierre to begin your service as a Legislative Page.

15. Is there a dress code for Legislative Pages?

ABSOLUTELY! You will want to be taken seriously as a member of the legislative branch and create a favorable impression in the professional environment of the legislative session. The atmosphere of the Legislature is best served when everyone involved in the process is dressed in appropriate business attire. The Legislature provides each page with three shirts in distinctive colors for each Chamber. This ensures that pages are recognized and can perform the duties in the most effective way. Revealing attire is not appropriate. Footwear should be dressy but comfortable enough for day-long wear. For those selected to serve as a Legislative Page, the Page Manual provides specific guidelines regarding appearance and dress.