

Legislative Page Program

Frequently Asked Questions



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

You will receive a letter in mid-December notifying you of your acceptance or non-acceptance into the Legislative Page Program.

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

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.

NOTE: For payroll processing, a legible copy of your SIGNED Social Security card must be submitted with the application.

3. The application requests 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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 Legislative Research Council will contact the elected legislators from your district about sponsoring you.

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

No, you will be assigned to a specific group of legislators; however, it is your responsibility to assist any and all legislators as needed.

8. 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 vary in length from two hours to well after 6:00 p.m. Certain committees also have night meetings, so you should keep your schedule flexible. **Under no circumstances is a Page to leave the Capitol without approval from the Page Advisor.**

9. 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.

10. When will I know my term assignment?

You will receive a letter from the Page Advisor during the first week in December telling you about your term assignment.

11. 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. It is not always possible, however, to accommodate all first-choice requests. When making your choice for one of the five terms, please check your school and extra-curricular schedules closely. It is not always possible to change your term at the last minute 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. Most of these are scheduled months in advance so you should have an idea of when you can serve as a page and when you cannot.

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

No, duplicate applications will be returned to you.

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

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

14. How much will I be paid?

You will receive \$50 for living expenses for each day you serve.

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

The Page Advisor will locate housing for you if you have not made your own arrangements. Housing is not always available so if you have someone you can stay with, you may want to look into that option.

16. How much will my lodging cost?

Housing details such as cost and house rules are between you and the host family. The Legislative Research Council does not get involved in these matters. These details should be agreed upon before you arrive in Pierre to begin your service as a Legislative Page.

17. Is there a dress code for Legislative Pages?

ABSOLUTELY! You will want to be taken seriously as a member of the legislative branch; therefore, you want to create a favorable impression in the professional environment of the legislative session. The Legislature is a formal, deliberative body charged with making wise and often difficult choices affecting all South Dakota citizens. 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 further guidance regarding appearance and dress.