



# THE FLORIDA SENATE PAGE PROGRAM

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **1. How do I apply to the Senate Page Program?**

Complete the application in full and submit to the Senate Page Program (via email [SenatePageProgram@flsenate.gov](mailto:SenatePageProgram@flsenate.gov)) on or before the identified deadline. Please make sure you have the entire application complete before submitting. This includes your signature and the gathering of signatures from your parent/guardian and your school principal (or designee). You will also need to select the weeks you may be available to participate in the program. We recommend selecting at least three (3) weeks as options.

### **2. When should I turn my application in?**

Spaces fill up quickly! You are more likely to get your first choice week if your application is submitted well before the identified deadline.

### **3. Do I have to submit any additional information with my application to be considered?\***

The Senate requires a complete application be submitted on or before the deadline. Letters of reference, writing samples or list of academic awards and honors are not required.

### **4. Who can participate in the program?\***

This program is for any high school student (private, public, home-schooled or virtual school) who has an interest in state government and falls within our age requirements.

### **5. How old do you have to be to participate?**

Ages 15 years old to 18 years old by the first day of your assigned week of service.

### **6. How do I find out the name of my current Senator?**

You can find out who your local Senator is by going to [www.flsenate.gov/Senators/Find](http://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/Find). Once you know who your Senator is, you can locate their contact information on the same page and indicate it appropriately on your application.

### **7. Does the Senator I list on my Page application have to be from my district?**

No. You may identify any current Florida Senator as a potential sponsor.

### **8. When would I serve as a Page?**

Pages are scheduled to participate for one week in Tallahassee during regular sessions.

### **9. When is Regular Session?**

The Florida Legislature meets in session every year for 60 consecutive days. A regular session of the legislature shall convene on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of each odd-numbered year, and on the second Tuesday after the first Monday in January of each even-numbered year.

**10. Why is it called Regular Session?**

A regular session is the annual session that begins on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of each odd-numbered year, and on the second Tuesday after the first Monday in January of each even-numbered year, for a period not to exceed 60 consecutive days. Special sessions may be called by proclamation of the Governor, by joint proclamation of the Senate President and the House Speaker, or by members of the legislature for the purpose of considering specific legislation and shall not exceed 20 consecutive days unless extended by a three-fifths vote of each house. Pages do not serve during special sessions.

**11. Why do you recommend I choose three different weeks?**

Although there are 9 weeks a Page may consider during regular session, you will only be assigned to serve one week. The weeks are assigned on a first-come first-serve basis. Due to the number of interested students, each week fills up quickly. Every effort will be made to accommodate your first priority, but if we cannot, then we'd like to know your other preferences.

**12. How will I know if I have been selected and which week I am assigned to work?**

You will receive an acceptance packet from the Senate via U.S. Mail with additional instructions and details. If you are *not* selected, then you will receive notification via email from the Senate Page Program.

**13. Does the Page Program provide housing, transportation and meals while I'm in Tallahassee?**

No. Pages are expected to provide their own transportation (to Tallahassee and while assigned their week to/from the program), housing, and meals while in Tallahassee.

**14. Does this Program qualify me to earn community service hours?**

Yes, Pages may earn 40 hours of community service. A school may require the student to complete specific forms or obtain documentation from the Senate Page Program. Participants are encouraged to check with their guidance counselor to verify any other attendance/absence requirements.

**15. Will I get paid for my time of service as a Senate Page?**

You may choose between 40 hours of community service or a \$250 stipend. You may not receive both. If you choose to be paid for your service, you will need to submit all required payroll documents. Information regarding these documents are provided in the acceptance packet. The required documents must be completed by the first day of service. If these documents are not completed, Pages will receive community service hours.

**16. How many hours do the Pages work?**

Pages work from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. There are times that session will go past 5 p.m. Pages are not required to stay past 5 p.m., but with parental/guardian consent they can work until 10 p.m.

**17. What do the Pages do when they are not in the Chamber working?**

Pages will assist members of the Senate by distributing materials and messages, engage in a mock-session in which students role-play as Senators, and observe committee meetings. Pages will participate in educational tours of the Historic Capitol, the Supreme Court, and the Governor's Mansion if time permits.

**18. Will I get a lunch break?**

Yes. Pages are on their own for lunch. Some options are to pack a lunch, purchase food from the Capitol, or accompany a parent/guardian off site during a lunch break. Length of lunch times may vary between 30 minutes to 1 hour and is dependent upon the session schedule.

**19. Can I apply to both programs, House and Senate?**

The Senate Page Program does not place restrictions on participation with the House of Representatives Page and Messenger Program. However, Senate Pages may not serve the program during the same week they are scheduled as a participant with the House of Representatives Page and Messenger Program.

**20. What is the dress code?**

Pages are required to wear business professional attire at all times. This includes a dark navy blazer and closed toe shoes. We recommend that all Pages wear comfortable shoes. Pages will receive a Senate patch with their acceptance packet. The patch must be placed on the left side of blazer prior to their first day of service. If a page arrives for work dressed inappropriately, they will be asked to change attire before resuming their duties.

**21. Can I bring my cell phone?**

Pages are allowed to bring their cell phones or laptops. There are times and areas that cell phones are not permitted. Pages will be asked to turn them off or leave them in the Page Office. Cell phones are not permitted in the Senate Chamber.

**22. My (family member, neighbor, or friend) is applying to the Senate Page Program and/or the House of Representatives Page and Messenger Program. Can we serve the same week?**

The Senate and House identify their program participants separately and apart from one another. Please ensure you indicate on the bottom of your application the family member, neighbor, or friend that is also applying to the respective program. Should the participants be accepted, we will work to accommodate schedules.

**23. My parents/guardians would like to observe the day-to-day Page activities and scheduled tours. Can they?**

While we welcome support from parents and others, some activities are limited to Page participants. Parents and guests will be directed to appropriate areas within the Capitol Complex to observe and/or witness our legislative process when necessary. They are welcomed to participate with tours, but must travel separately from the group.

**24. Where can I get more information about this program?**

Please email [SenatePageProgram@flsenate.gov](mailto:SenatePageProgram@flsenate.gov) or call 850.487.5270.

*\*Note: Your high school may have additional attendance or GPA requirements that must be satisfied prior to approving a student's participation in our program. Students are encouraged to comply with those requirements.*