Legislative Page Program
General Information

Application Requirements

Students interested in serving as pages for the South Dakota Legislature must meet the following requirements:

- Be a high school junior or senior (seniors will be given preference).
- Have signed sponsorship approval by a current legislator or legislator-elect.
- Submit completed application and cover letter ON or BEFORE the deadline on the application.

  - Have written permission from school.
  - Have strong academic performance (3.0+ GPA is encouraged).
  - Have written permission from parent or legal guardian.
  - Submit a cover letter and two written letters of recommendation.
- SDLegislature.gov provides information about the Page Program, legislators, and the legislative process.

Selection Process

- Applications are reviewed in November.
- Early December the President Pro Tempore selects the Senate pages and the Speaker of the House selects the House pages.
- Mid-December the page advisor will notify applicants of the disposition of their application and their term assignment, if selected.

Terms of Service

- Page terms of service are divided into five different time periods, of 4 to 9 days each, as identified on the Page Terms Calendar.
- Selected pages are assigned to their term of service by the page advisor. Every effort is made to assign the page to their first or second preference checked on their application.
- Actual dates of service may differ, if the official legislative session calendar is modified by the legislative body after session begins.

Housing

- The page advisor will arrange housing in family homes in Pierre/Ft. Pierre for pages who need housing.
- The selected page, parents/guardian, and housing host will finalize housing details such as house rules, parking, and housing cost.
- Attempts are made to house pages in groups of two or more.
- Parent/guardian consent is required for pages who make their own arrangements.
- Staying in a motel/hotel is prohibited, unless the page is staying with a parent.
- Pages who live out of town are encouraged to go home on the weekend.

Transportation

- Pages are responsible for their own transportation to and from work and any other transportation needs while serving in Pierre.

Supervision and Education

- The page advisor provides daily supervision and direction of pages during the performance of their duties within the Capitol complex.
- The President Pro Tempore and the Speaker of the House are responsible for the overall supervision of the Page Program.
- The Legislative Research Council is not responsible for any activity that is not directly work related.
- Educational opportunities are arranged by the page advisor as Session schedules permit.

Work Hours

- Pages are required to attend a scheduled group orientation, prior to reporting to work.
- Normal work hours each day of the assigned term begin at 7:15 a.m. and end approximately one hour after session adjourns. Session generally adjourns between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Pages must complete their daily work duties before they are excused for the day.
- Except in cases of emergency, pages are not permitted time off during their term of service.
- Pages are not permitted to leave the Capitol without permission from the page advisor.

Work Duties

All pages will experience all duties. Duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Attend daily afternoon floor sessions and assist legislators and staff as needed.
- Attend and assist committee and LRC staff as needed in the daily committee meetings.
- Work in the legislative post office on a rotational basis.
- Answer phones and deliver messages to legislators on a rotational basis.
- Sort and deliver legislator mail.

Personal Appearance

The Legislature is a formal, deliberative body charged with making public policy decisions affecting all of South Dakota's citizens. The atmosphere of the Legislature is best served when everyone involved in the process is well groomed and dressed in appropriate business attire. The Legislature provides each page with three shirts in distinctive colors for each Chamber. This ensures that pages are easily recognized to perform their duties in the most effective way. Footwear should be dressy but comfortable enough for day-long wear.

Disqualifying Behavior

Serving as a Legislative Page is a privilege. It is important that pages hold themselves to the highest standards. If an applicant has been selected to serve and is involved in unethical or inappropriate behavior, they may be withdrawn from the Page Program.

Compensation

As a page, you will receive $55 for each legislative day you work. These funds are to cover housing, meals, mileage, and other living expenses during your term of service.

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