

## **Senate Page Program Information**

Living away from home and attending school with students from across the country allows Pages to experience a myriad of new ideas, perspectives, and issues. Pages meet some of the Nation's most prominent leaders and witness firsthand the political debates of the United States Senate, often referred to as the "greatest deliberative body in the world."

Page duties consist primarily of delivery of correspondence and legislative material within the Congressional Complex. Other duties include taking messages for Members, calling them to the phone, preparing the Chamber for Senate sessions, and carrying bills and amendments to the desk. Pages are paid on the basis of an annual salary of \$ 25,605.

There are four established page sessions. The academic year consists of two semesters which run from early September through mid-January and from mid-January through mid-June. The summer program consists of two sessions which are three or four weeks duration depending on the legislative calendar.

Following classes at the Senate Page School, which extend until 9:45 a.m. or one hour prior to the commencement of the Senate, Pages report for duty to their respective cloakrooms and work until 4:00 p.m. or until the Senate adjourns for the day, whichever is later.

## **Daniel Webster Hall Senate Page Residence**

Pages are required to live in the Daniel Webster Senate Page Residence during the school year. The cost of living in the residence hall is \$780 per month and includes breakfast and dinner each day. Payment is made through payroll deduction. An initial security deposit of \$250 is required before checking in and is refundable when it has been determined that no damage has occurred to the residence.

Webster Hall is located on Capitol Hill. Staff includes the Page Program Director, Administrative Specialist and five proctors. Four proctors reside full-time in Webster Hall. The living quarters include two floors, one of which is designated for young women, the other for young men. Each floor has a community day room for social activity.

Pages must share rooms with each other. Each room is designed for four to six occupants and is furnished with twin size bunk or loft style beds, desks, chairs, and bureaus. Roommates share closet space, a bathroom, and a telephone. Laundry and kitchen facilities are located on the basement level of Webster Hall.

United States Capitol Police maintain a 24-hour security desk and a provision that requires all individuals to present identification and all visitors and guests to sign in. Capitol Police patrol the area by car and foot regularly throughout the day and night. Webster Hall is monitored by a security alarm system and all emergency and safety measures required by the District of Columbia for community life structures are present and enforced.

Pages selected for the Summer Page Program may live with their parents or a relative in the area; alternate housing arrangements must be submitted in writing by a parent or legal guardian for approval by the Page Program Director.

## **Requirements for Page Selection**

- Senate Pages must be sponsored by a Senator
- Pages must be citizens of the United States or subject to agreements of the Department of State, and must have a social security number
- Page eligibility is limited to juniors in high school who will be 16 or 17 years old on or before the date of appointment.
- Summer Page eligibility is limited to students who have completed the sophomore year and who will be 16 or 17 years old on or before the date of appointment
- Pages must verify a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a home school transcript and a certification of immunization to qualify for attendance at the school
- A general health assessment completed by a licensed physician is required, in addition to a certification of immunization
- Pages are required to be covered by health insurance; if not covered, they will be required to enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program

## **Senate Pages must be sponsored by a Senator**

There are thirty Page positions in the United States Senate; therefore, not all Senators are able to appoint Pages. Due to the limited number of positions and the volume of interested students, competition is keen and, unfortunately, not all students who seek a position can be accommodated.

## **History of the Senate Page School**

The Senate page at work in the Senate Chamber credit: Senate Historical Office

The Senate Page School, accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, serves all appointed Senate pages by providing a smooth transition from and to the students' home schools. The school serves only 11th grade students who have a grade point average of 3.0 and have been identified by their home schools as good citizens. Classes at the school extend from 6:15 a.m. until 9:45 a.m. or one hour prior to the commencement of the Senate each weekday.

From the appointment of the first Senate page in 1829 until 1945, no one gave much thought to the formal education of pages. In 1925, the House doorkeeper established a special private school run by one teacher in the basement of the Capitol. In 1929, the Devitt Preparatory School of Washington took charge of the pages' education. Reforms instituted under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 shifted the responsibility to the District of Columbia Public Schools. In 1983, the House and Senate pages were provided a shared residence until 1995, when the current independent Senate Page School and Daniel Webster Residence were opened.