



# Wisconsin State Legislature

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT: LUTHER OLSEN (800) 991-5541

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## **Senate Scholar Program: A Unique Opportunity For Students**

Imagine if your high school government or civics class included a week of hands-on learning at the State Capitol. Each year, thirty-three high school and homeschooled students enjoy this experience as participants in the Senate Scholar program. Senate Scholars spend a week in Madison learning about the state legislature and how it functions. Through this program, they discover the variety of careers available within and surrounding the state legislature. Students have the opportunity to learn from legislators, staffers and lobbyists about the work they do and how they accomplish their goals. Inspired by their time as Senate Scholars, previous attendees have gone on to become Senate Pages or interns in Senate offices, two stepping stones to future careers.

The Senate Scholar Program is open to high school and homeschooled students between the ages of 16 and 18. Applicants must have strong academic credentials, with at least a B average, and obtain both a nomination from their local state senator and two letters of recommendation. The fee for attending the 2019 Senate Scholar Program is \$250. This fee includes the cost of lodging, lunches, and dinners. The 2019 program will take place over three weeks: March 3-8, March 17-22, and April 7-12.

Senate Scholars attend floor debates, committee hearings and seminars with members of the press, legislative staffers, the governor's office, and a representative from the state Supreme Court. The Scholars will hear from the legislature's nonpartisan support agencies to learn more about what it means to be nonpartisan and learn about the state's elections and ethics laws from

the state agency charged with enforcing these laws. In addition to observing actual legislative activities the Senate Scholars will intern as a messenger during Senate session, participate in mock bill drafting, policy analysis, constituent communications and lobbying. The week culminates in a mock committee hearing at which the Senate Scholars testify for or against the bill they have drafted. Parents and relatives are encouraged to attend and participate in this hearing. These experiences provide the Senate Scholars with the opportunity to learn about careers in public policy as they prepare for the next stage in their academic career.

Senate Scholars stay at the Concourse Hotel in downtown Madison. The hotel is directly across the street from the State Capitol. Cost of the hotel is included in the tuition price. In addition to their experiences at the Capitol, the program includes planned entertainment activities in the evenings.

To apply for the program, students should submit a resume, complete an application and get letters of support. Students must be nominated by their state senator to complete the application process. To ensure that my office has sufficient time to process requests for nomination, please contact me by Wednesday, November 14, 2018 with your nomination request. Completed applications are due November 21, 2018. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by December 14, 2018. A complete application packet, and additional information, can be found at [www.senatescholar.com](http://www.senatescholar.com).

*If you have any questions about any of the information I have included or if you have suggestions on other topics or issues you would like learn more about, you may call my office toll-free at (800) 991-5541; write me at P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707; or e-mail me at: [Sen.Olsen@legis.state.wi.us](mailto:Sen.Olsen@legis.state.wi.us). You can also sign up for our newsletter at our website: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen14/news/index.htm>.*