



# Wisconsin State Legislature

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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## **Senate Scholars Program Shows Students How Legislature Works**

High school students in Wisconsin have a unique opportunity to spend a week in Madison to learn about state government and discover the variety of careers available within and surrounding the state legislature by participating in the Senate Scholar Program. Every year, the State Senate welcomes thirty-three high school students to the State Capitol for a week learning about the state legislature and how it functions. Students have the opportunity to learn from legislators, staffers and lobbyists about the work they do and how they accomplish their goals. Students in this program learn about bill drafting, press relations and constituent services. 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 2018 Senate Scholar Program is \$250. This fee includes the cost of lodging, lunches, and dinners. The 2018 program will take place over three weeks: January 21-26, February 11-16, and March 11-16.

Senate Scholars attend floor debates, committee hearings and seminars with members of the press, lobbyists, senate staffers, the governor's office, and a representative from the state Supreme Court. The Scholars also visit the UW-Madison Robert M. LaFollette School of Public Affairs and meet with professors and students. These experiences provide the Senate Scholars

with the opportunity to learn about careers in public policy at a critical time when they are preparing for their academic future. In addition to observing actual legislative activities the Senate Scholars will 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 hands-on experiences augment the Social Studies, Government and Civics classes they have taken in high school by letting them experience the legislative process.

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 entertainment like movies, trips to the UW-Madison Memorial Union, sports or cultural events and dining at local restaurants.

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 15, 2017 with your nomination request. Completed applications are due November 22, 2017. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by December 11, 2017. A complete application packet, and additional information, can be found at <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/ssgt/senatescholar/>.

*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>.*