

WELCOME
PACKET

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Georgia House of Representatives Page Program

Page Program

Welcome to the Georgia House of Representatives Page Program, a program that has become an essential part of the services provided to both legislators and the public. For more than 50 years, this unique and educational experience has sparked many political aspirations and has connected elected leaders with Georgia's young students.

Members sponsor students between the ages of 12-18 from their districts to come to the State Capitol and serve for one day. As a House Page, you will serve the members by delivering

important information and messages into the House Chamber. Students are allowed to serve as a Page once per session.

It is our hope you will take every opportunity to learn all you can about your state government and how it functions. In addition to performing legislative duties, Pages will be able to observe lawmakers, governmental affairs consultants, staff, and constituents working together in the legislative process.

As you serve as a House Page you will be able to meet your state representative and have

your picture taken with the Speaker of the House.

We hope you enjoy your experience as a Page and that this experience will be one you will cherish for many years to come.

Thank you for your service.



Message from the Page Program Staff

Dear Students and Parents,

It is an honor for you to have been selected by your state representative to serve as a House Page and above all we want your visit to the State Capitol to be as exciting and memorable as possible.

While there will be many things already underway during your

visit, we want you to feel comfortable with your responsibilities. Please read this packet thoroughly as it covers, in detail, how you will spend your day at the State Capitol.

We hope you have a safe drive to Atlanta and we look forward to working with you under the Gold Dome. Should you have any ques-

tions, please feel free to contact the Page Program staff at (404) 463-5414 or at PageDeskHouse@legis.ga.gov. Sincerely,

Page Program Staff,

Georgia House of Representatives

Georgia House of Representatives Page Program

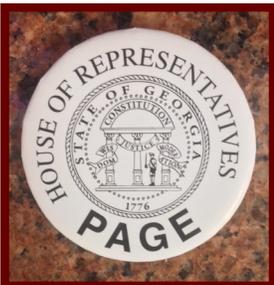
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Voting and request buttons can be found on each representative's desk

"The paging experience brought to life a lot of what I learned in government class and gave me a better understanding of what goes on under the Gold Dome!"

*—Kennedy Dickerson,
2009-2013 House Page*



An official House Page badge

Summary of Responsibilities

After arriving one hour prior to the start of session, each Page is *expected* to serve from the convening of daily session until its adjournment.

All Pages are *required* to attend a Page Orientation that will take place 30 minutes before session begins. Attendance at this orientation is crucial; it is here Pages will watch the House Page Instructional Video and will be assigned specific responsibilities.

Arrival Times

Pages are expected to arrive one hour before the legislative session day begins.

On the evening before your date of service, please call (404) 463-5414 for the most up-to-date session start times and the time you should report for paging.

Registration

All Pages must be signed in by a parent or guardian to be completely registered. Page Program registration is located in front of the House Chamber on the third floor of the State Capitol. Each Page must check-in and check-out at the Page Staff desk.

The **ONLY** exception to this rule is if the Page drives himself or herself to the State Capitol.

Throughout the session day, Pages will be seated outside the House Chamber and will be sent individually to deliver messages to representatives using a rotation system. Pages will deliver documents, bills, messages, and letters between various legislators and the public.

When a student is not paging it is important that he or she remain seated so that traffic can move freely outside the chamber doors.

Pages serve continuously throughout the day and will break when the House of Representatives enters a recess.

If, for any reason, a Page must leave before the end of the legislative day please notify the Page Staff at the time of registration.

Example:

**Session start time is 10:00am,
Pages must arrive at 9:00am.**

However, in this case, Pages who are 16 years of age must still completely register by signing in at the Page Staff desk.

All students under the age of 16 must have a parent or guardian sign them in and out.

Dress Code & Rules

Paging requires a full day of walking throughout the Capitol building, as such dress code is strictly enforced and should be respectable, modest, and appropriate, yet comfortable; resembling business casual attire.

Attire for boys typically includes: comfortable shoes, dress pants, and a dress shirt. Sport coats and ties are optional.

Lunch & Dinner

It is important to note that every legislative day does not have a lunch break. Only on legislative days that House members recess for a lunch break will the Pages be provided lunch (this lunch will be provided by the Page Program). This lunch will include a fried Chick-fil-A sandwich, chips, a chocolate chip cookie, and a soft drink or water.

Vegetarian or alternative lunches are not provided by the Page Pro-

gram, so if you have any dietary needs that restrict you from eating the provided lunch, please bring your own lunch or make arrangements with your sponsoring representative's office.

Attire for girls consists of a sensible shirt, dress pants, a knee length skirt, or dress. Shoes must be worn at all times, therefore we recommend comfortable, low-heeled shoes.

Prohibited clothing: Any student wearing a sweatshirt, t-shirt, skirt above the knee, strapless or spaghetti strap top or dress, low cut blouse, jeans, or shorts will *not* be allowed to page.

Dinner is *typically* provided to any Page on long legislative days when the House takes a dinner break.

A complete listing of allergen, gluten, and diabetic exchange information for the items served to Pages can be found by visiting

the Chick-fil-A Nutrition Guide at <http://www.chick-fil-a.com/Food/Allergen-Gluten-Diabetic>.

Pages are not allowed to use electronic devices and have the option to secure these items with the Page staff at the time of registration, before session begins.



A representative's chair in the House Chamber

"They keep you busy, you meet so many interesting people, and you get to be right in the middle of all the action! I really didn't want the day to end."

*—Evelyn Doss,
2013 House Page*

Pictures

Typically, on normal legislative days, photos are taken upon the adjournment of session. Every effort is made to facilitate a photo that will include the Page, sponsoring Representative, and the Speaker of the House.

On longer legislative days photos may be taken periodically at the discretion of the Speaker; not the sponsoring Representative. If a

Page has to leave early, the Speaker may or may not be available for a photograph at that time. In this case, the Page will have his or her photo taken with their Representative only. At the time of registration, the Page needs to notify the Page Staff if he or she is leaving early, and the proper arrangements will be made to have a photograph taken.

Page photos are automatically ordered, printed and delivered to each Representative's office. It is the responsibility of each Representative to mail the photograph. Pages also receive information in the packet they are given at the end of the day about how pictures can be ordered.



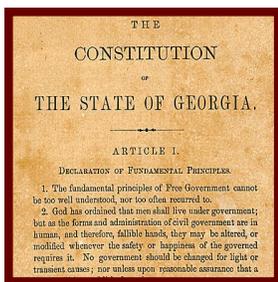
Speaker's rostrum



Speaker's gavel

“Getting to witness and interact with the legislators gives you an appreciation for the job they’re doing and better helps you understand the lawmaking process.”

—Andrew Stephens,
2013 House Page



1861 Constitution of the State of Georgia

Pay & Certificate

Each Page is paid \$10.00 for their service to the Georgia House of Representatives.

Each Page will receive a certificate of service at the end of the day. This certificate will serve as an excuse for their absence from school.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §20-2-692, “Children who serve as Pages of the General Assembly during the school year, either at regular or

special sessions, shall be credited as present by the school in which enrolled in the same manner as an educational field trip, and such participation as a Page shall not be counted as an absence, either excused or unexcused.”

Parents/Guardians

You are encouraged to stay at the State Capitol during the time your student will be serving as a Page. However, should the legislative day run shorter than expected your child should be able to communicate with you by phone in order to expedite the check out process.

You can watch the day’s session from the House gallery on the fourth floor. Cell phone use, photography and videography is prohibited in the gallery. Kindles, Nooks, iPads, laptops or other electronic devices are permitted in the House gallery, but must remain silent.

If you are staying during a lunch break, there are two nearby cafeterias.

Cafeterias :

◇ **Coverdell Legislative Office Building (also referred to C.L.O.B.)**

– **6th floor: Across from the Capitol on Mitchell Street.**

◇ **Sloppy Floyd Building (also referred to as Twin Towers)**

– **1st floor: Across from the State Capitol at the corner**

Directions to the State Capitol – Atlanta, Georgia

From the South: Take I-75/85 North to Exit 245 (Capitol Avenue). At the bottom of the exit ramp continue straight after the stop sign. At the first traffic light, turn left onto Hank Aaron Drive and the State Capitol will be approximately one mile on your left.

From the North: Take I-75/85 South to Exit 248A (Martin Luther King Jr. Drive). Bear right onto Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and the State Capitol will be on your left.

From the East: Take I-20 West to Exit 58A (Capitol Avenue). Turn right onto Capitol Avenue and the Capitol will be approximately one mile down on the left.

From the West: Take I-20 East to Exit 56B (Windsor Street/Spring Street/Stadium). At the third light, turn left onto Central Avenue. Turn onto Mitchell Street, turn right, and the State Capitol will be two blocks down on the left.

Parking Information

THERE IS A PARKING FEE IN EACH LOCATION
AND HOURLY RATES MAY VARY.

Steve Polk Plaza: 65 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Underground Atlanta Parking Deck: 75 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Pete Hackney Parking Deck: 162 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE, Atlanta, Georgia 30334



**Interior of the
State Capitol dome**

*“Working with the
friendly staff and
interacting with our
state legislators
reassured my interest
in pursuing a degree
in political science.”*

*–Kevin Mason,
2013 House Page*



**Atlanta's historic
Gold Dome.**

From House Page to Speaker of the House

GEORGIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PAGE PROGRAM

House Page Program Staff
Email: PageDeskHouse@legis.ga.gov
Phone: 404-463-5414

House Page Program
State Capitol—Room 323
Attention: Page Program
Atlanta, Georgia 30334



Speaker David Ralston

House Speaker David Ralston was born and raised in Ellijay, Georgia. From a very young age he knew he wanted to serve his state and was selected to Page when he was in the 5th grade.

In 1992, Ralston was elected to the Georgia State Senate, and in 2002 he was elected by the citizens of Georgia's 7th House District to represent Fannin, Gilmer, and a portion of Dawson County in the State House. In 2010 Ralston was elected as the 73rd Speaker of the

Georgia House of Representatives.

The Speaker of the House is the presiding officer of the House of Representatives. He is responsible for upholding the rules of the House, recognizing members who wish to speak, making committee assignments, and calling bills forward so that they may be discussed and voted upon.

Speaker David Ralston hopes you enjoy your day of service at the State Capitol and thanks *you* for your service to the State of Georgia.



**"Wisdom, Justice, and
Moderation"**
The state motto of Georgia

Mission Statement

Inspiring today's young leaders, the Georgia House of Representatives' Page Program strives to create an informative experience capturing the essence of Georgia's legislative process. In a respectable, fast paced but *safe* environment our program provides a firsthand observation of the State Capitol, elected officials, and government; all the while encouraging students to continue to lead Georgia into the next generation.