

Page and Messenger Program Essay Contest

Representative Salzman receives many inquiries about the page and messenger program at the Florida House. This year, she has decided to offer an essay contest as the means to select the page/messenger she nominates to serve. The Florida House takes the nominations and with the available schedules makes the final decision on if a nominee gets to serve and which week. Please see the attached information about the page and messenger program to determine if you will be able to fulfill the requirements, should you be selected.

Essay Guidelines:

1. Write a 400-500 word essay on "*What Citizenship Means to Me*"
2. Your essay should be written in MSWord, in Arial, Calibri, Times New Roman, or Book Antiqua font in 11 or 12 pitch.
3. Completed essays should be attached as a .doc, .docx, or pdf to an email sent to the District Aide at: Debra.Malsberger@MyFloridaHouse.gov the subject line should be: "Page & Messenger Essay Contest" and the body of the email should contain the student's name, age, grade, school, and contact information, including a phone number, for a parent/guardian.
4. Submissions must be sent (timestamp will be verified in the email) by 5pm January 6.
5. Winners will be selected and notified by January 16.
6. The winning student will need to complete additional paperwork (with signatures from parent/guardian AND Principal/Administrator) for the Florida House and have it returned to the District Office by January 30.

Submission Rules

1. Students must be enrolled in grade 6-12

The page and messenger program is only available to middle and high school students. Those with dual enrollment ARE eligible, but those exclusively enrolled as college students, are not. Students may be enrolled in public or private school.

2. An entry must be the student's own work.

An entry must be your creation. You can have the support or assistance from another student(s) or adult(s). For example, you can receive feedback and technical support. But the ideas, tone, writing or editing decisions must be your own.

3. An entry must be original - and not plagiarized.

Be sure not to take someone else's work and pass it off as your own.

4. Only one entry per student.

You have one opportunity to win the contest. Do not submit multiple entries. Please submit your best entry.

5. A student must reside in Florida House District 1 to participate in the contest. You may verify your district by entering your address here: [Find Your Representative | Florida House of Representatives \(myfloridahouse.com\)](#)

2023 Regular Session

Florida House of Representatives Page & Messenger Program Overview

General Information

- Students enrolled in grades 6-12 are eligible to participate in the Page & Messenger Program.
- Pages and Messengers receive service hour credits for their week of participation.
- As time allows, Pages and Messengers participate in optional tours and educational activities. This may include participating in a mock legislative session, attending a committee meeting, or touring the Governor's Mansion, the Florida Supreme Court, and the Historic Capitol. There will be fewer opportunities for the above mentioned activities during the later weeks of Session as the workload increases.

PAGES (grades 6-8)

- Work in the House Chamber assisting Representatives
- Working hours vary day-to-day based on the Session schedule with daily dismissal by 5 pm unless the House is *not* in Session on Friday, in which case students will be dismissed at 1 pm

MESSENGERS (grades 9-12)

- Work in the Capitol and surrounding buildings of the Capitol Complex
- Working hours are 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday unless the House is *not* in Session on Friday, in which case students will be dismissed at 1 pm

Orientation

Pages and Messengers are required to attend orientation the first morning of their week of participation. At orientation, a complete schedule for the week and expectations for the week will be discussed.

Transportation, Lodging, and Food

Pages and Messengers are responsible for their own transportation to Tallahassee and the Capitol each day. They are also responsible for their own lodging and meals.