

OVERVIEW

The Mississippi Secretary of State Student Ambassador Program is a cooperative program between high school seniors, the Secretary of State's Office, and Secretary of State Michael Watson. Through the program, students with a passion for leadership and state government will be equipped to return to their schools as proponents of voter education and awareness. They will also have regular interaction with leaders from the Secretary of State's Office as well as the Mississippi Legislature while establishing a network of like-minded peers from across the state.

Participants will attend one-day spring and fall semester summits at the Secretary of State's Office in Jackson as well as periodic conference calls. The fall summit will focus on the elections process in Mississippi with an emphasis on the importance of voter education and participation in the election process. Student Ambassadors will get an inside view of how elections are conducted in the state, including an opportunity to serve at polling places in their area.

The spring summit, during the legislative session, will give students a deeper understanding of the Mississippi legislative process. Students will also be equipped to develop a spring voter registration campaign in their schools. Through monthly virtual meetings, students will be able to collaborate, ask questions, and seek guidance from Secretary of State representatives, Mississippi legislators, and each other.

“The SOS Student Ambassador Program is a great opportunity for young leaders to cultivate their affinity for public service and expand leadership skills. We are excited to take part in the development and growth of the next generation of Mississippians and look forward to providing a greater understanding of one of our greatest liberties, the right to vote.”

– Secretary of State Michael Watson

Students who complete the program will get a first-hand account of state government in action and will experience the processes that ensure Mississippi is a better place for their generation and generations to come.



Michael Watson
SECRETARY OF STATE

IMPORTANT DATES

- ▶ Applications must be received by the Secretary of State's Office no later than May 15, 2022
- ▶ Notification of acceptance will begin on June 1, 2022
- ▶ Tentative summit dates:
 - FALL — Tuesday, August 9, 2022 (Tentative)
 - SPRING — Tuesday, January 10, 2023 (Tentative)

APPLICATION PROCESS

To be considered for the SOS Student Ambassador Program, students must submit a completed application by May 15, 2022. Applications will be objectively reviewed by the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office. Students who submit a completed application and meet the following criteria, will be considered for admission:

- ▶ Grade Point Average of 3.0 or above
- ▶ Upcoming high school senior
- ▶ Proven satisfactory behavioral conduct
- ▶ Interest in state government

Checklist — the following must be included:

- ▶ Completed Application Information document
- ▶ Names of two references—one personal, one school administrator (counselor or principal)
- ▶ 300-600 word essay response
- ▶ Completed Waiver form

Applications may be submitted via email to ExternalAffairs@sos.ms.gov, hand-delivered or mailed to the Secretary of State's Office at 401 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201 to the attention of the External Affairs Division.

The Mississippi Secretary of State's Office will notify applicants of acceptance via email and mail in addition to providing more detailed program information.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact the External Affairs Division at the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office.

- ▶ EMAIL — ExternalAffairs@sos.ms.gov
- ▶ PHONE — 601-359-4454

APPLICANT INFORMATION

(This document must be completed in its entirety to be eligible for review.)

Name _____
Last First MI
Home Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Student Phone # _____ Student Email _____
Parent/Guardian Name _____
Parent/Guardian Phone # _____

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

High School Name _____
Year of Graduation _____ GPA _____

List two (2) high school or community activities:

1. _____
2. _____

List two (2) honors, awards, or leadership positions held:

1. _____
2. _____

Have you ever had any disciplinary referrals or suspensions? _____

If yes, please explain _____

REFERENCES

School Counselor or Administrator Name _____
Administrator Phone # _____ Email _____

Personal Reference Name _____ Relationship _____
Reference Phone # _____ Email _____

VERIFICATION

I, _____, do hereby confirm that the information above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. It is my understanding that if any information in this document is deemed inaccurate, my application will be withdrawn. I also acknowledge that the Secretary of State's Office reserves the right to terminate the program and/or remove a student from the program solely upon discretion.

Applicant Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

WAIVER

As the parent(s)/legal guardian of _____, I do hereby release the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office, its officers, employees, and agents from any and all claims, demands, damages, suits, actions, or causes of action which I/we may, can or shall have by reason of any illness, injury or accident incurred or suffered by said son/daughter while traveling to or from or during attendance or participation in the Mississippi Secretary of State Student Ambassador Program from the time of his/her departure from home until his/her return thereof.

I/we acknowledge that all pictures and videos taken by the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office during the SOS Student Ambassador events are the sole property of the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office to be displayed on the Mississippi Secretary of State's website, social media, and/or promotional materials.

Student/Parent/Legal Guardian Printed Name

Student/Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

ESSAY

In 300-600 words, address one of the two prompts below. You may type in the space provided or submit as a separate document:

1. If you could choose to hold any office in Mississippi's Executive Branch, what would it be and why? (*Offices include: Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, State Auditor, Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Agriculture & Commerce*)
2. What makes the right to vote one of our nation's most essential liberties?



Michael Watson
SECRETARY OF STATE

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