



## 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 completed **NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 2023**
- ▶ Notification of acceptance will begin on May 1, 2023
- ▶ Tentative summit dates:
  - FALL — Tuesday, August 15, 2023 (Tentative)
  - SPRING — Tuesday, January 16, 2024 (Tentative)

## APPLICATION PROCESS

To be considered for the SOS Student Ambassador Program, students **must submit a completed application online by March 31, 2023**. 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 Online Application (link below)
- ▶ Names of two references—one personal, one school administrator (counselor or principal)
- ▶ 300-600 word essay response

### [Click HERE to apply for the 2023-2024 SOS Ambassador Program](#)

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](mailto:ExternalAffairs@sos.ms.gov)
- ▶ PHONE — 601-359-4454

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***Michael Watson***  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**