

**STUDENT APPLICATION 2025/2026**

**Our Mission:**

To equip and engage future leaders for the benefit of Van Zandt County through a program of

leadership development, community study and involvement.

**Why Leadership Van Zandt County?**

Leadership Van Zandt County is designed to incorporate key leadership objectives for

community leadership including a wide community base leadership development and community

trusteeship. Participants will be given the tools necessary to question standard practices,

encourage new visions, empower others to act and make a difference in their community.

**Application Instructions:**

Please provide all the information requested in this application, relevant to your own

experience and background. Resumes will NOT be accepted in lieu of this application.

Your application must be signed by you and your employer and submitted no

later than 5:00 pm July 11th, 2025. Candidates will not be considered without a completed application.

**Selection:**

Leadership Van Zandt County Class 6 will be selected through a blind process including a

selection committee that reviews the applications and interviews the applicants. Applicants will

be notified of the committee's decision by August 22nd, 2025. Selection will be made on the

following criteria: Commitments to civic involvement and to the Van Zandt County community;

potential for community leadership as well as professional and personal achievement. LVZC will accept no more than two applicants per employer for the current class. If more than two

applications are submitted, the employer will be contacted to determine which two applications

will be considered. The application must be signed and completed in its entirety to warrant consideration. There are no guaranteed appointments or selections.

**Tuition:**

Tuition for each participant in Leadership Van Zandt County is $850. You will be encouraged to

serve on a committee for Leadership Van Zandt County after graduation as part of the Alumni.

*Tuition is payable upon notification of acceptance; due by September 1st, 2025.*

**USE OF INFORMATION**

I ( DO / DO NOT ) give permission to Leadership Van Zandt County to use my photo(s) and information provided in this application at the discretion of LVZC. I understand that Leadership Van Zandt County will not release my information without prior approval.

**FINANCIAL COMMITMENT**

Tuition for each participant in Leadership Van Zandt County is $850. Financial assistance is available depending on circumstances. Tuition includes a one-year membership in the Leadership Van Zandt County Alumni Network ($50.00) from May 2026 through May 2027. **Tuition is due September 1st, 2025.** I understand that tuition must be paid in full by my employer or myself on or before the deadline. Failure to pay will result in disenrollment from the program.

**ATTENDANCE AND TIME COMMITMENT**

Full participation by each member of Leadership Van Zandt County is critical. This includes attendance at:

1**. Team Building Retreat** (Mandatory) – Tentatively September 19, 2025 & September 20, 2025

2. **State Capitol Tour** (Mandatory) – Tentatively March 9, 2026 & March 10, 2026

3. **Monthly Class Sessions** – October 2025 through May 2026 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (see attached)

4. Students may NOT miss more than 6 hours total class time. This policy will be strictly enforced. Tuition (including one year of alumni dues) will not be reimbursed for any reason.

It is vital that you and your employer understand and honor these commitments. ***If you are unable to commit to this schedule, please do not apply at this time.***

I, as an applicant, understand and agree to these commitments.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Name

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant’s Signature Date:

I, as the above candidate's employer, understand and agree to these commitments.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Name\*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Employer’s Signature & Title\* Date:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Phone Number\*

\* Not applicable if self-employed or un-employed

*This form must be filled out completely and attached to the application to warrant consideration*

*in the program.*

Please provide your responses to all application questions. Resumes will NOT be accepted in lieu of the completion of this application. All responses must be clearly legible.

**Personal Information:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Legal Name: |  |
| Preferred Name: |  |
| Date of Birth: |  |
| Cell Phone: |  |
| Email Address: |  |
| Home Address: |  |
| Mailing Address: |  |
| Company/Organization: |  |
| Title of Current Position: |  |
| Business Address: |  |
| Business Phone: |  |

How long have you been involved in the Van Zandt County area? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about Leadership Van Zandt County? **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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Do you require any special accommodations?

* YES
* NO

If yes, please explain (allergies, medical or physical): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Shirt Size (choose one)

* Small
* Medium
* Large
* XL
* XXL
* XXXL

**PLEASE ANSWER EACH QUESTION USING 500 WORDS OR LESS; RESPONSES MUST BE CLEARLY LEGIBLE:**

1. Why do you want to participate in Leadership Van Zandt County?

2. Describe your volunteer, civic, community and/or church-related activities during the past five years, noting any special awards and citations. Include specific examples of your leadership.

3. What do you see as the biggest challenge facing Van Zandt County today and what is your vision to resolve or improve it?

4. Describe your leadership abilities and what you as an individual bring to your future class and our community.

5. What kinds of volunteer activities would you like to become involved in the future?

**Letters of Recommendation:**

Attach two (2) letters of recommendation, one from a personal reference and one from a professional reference which should include:

* Why this applicant will make a good candidate for this year's LVZC Class
* Examples of their leadership abilities

*Letters should be addressed to the attention of the Leadership Van Zandt County Selection Committee.*

**Application Checklist:**

* Personal/Business information
* Questions on pg. 3 & 4 completed
* Professional photo
* Short Bio
* Two letters of recommendation (one personal/one professional)
* Financial, Attendance, and Time Commitments read, signed, and understood
* Ensure application is filled out completely. Incomplete applications will not be submitted to the selection committee.
* Application submitted on or before deadline

**Submitting your application:**

Applications must be emailed to leadershipvzc@gmail.com no later than 5:00 pm July 11th, 2025. You will be notified via email when all required documentation has been received.

**For more information please contact:**

Jessica Henshaw Phone: 903-567-4181 Email: Jessica.henshaw@prosperitybankusa.com

Heather Haimes Phone: 214-770-2756 Email: heather.haimes@christushealth.org

Todd Roberts Phone: 903-569-7750 Email: toddroberts@transformconsults.com

**LEADERSHIP VAN ZANDT COUNTY**

**TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Team Building Retreat**

Friday & Saturday, September 19-20th, 2025

(Mandatory)

**Effective Leadership**

Thursday, October 16th, 2025

**Time Management, Effective Communication, & Conflict Resolution**

Thursday, November 20th, 2025

**History of VZ County**

Thursday, December 18th, 2025

**Economic Development**

Thursday, January 15th, 2026

**Healthcare & Education**

Thursday, February 19th, 2026

**State Capitol Tour Austin, TX**

Monday & Tuesday March 9-10th, 2026

(Mandatory)

**Government (State, County and City) & Criminal Justice**

Thursday, April 16th, 2026

**Community Service & Volunteerism/ Boards & Committees**

Thursday, May 21st, 2026

**Graduation Dinner**

Thursday, June 4th, 2026

Students may NOT miss more than 6 hours total class time.