



Our Mission: Engage with business and industry leaders to enhance knowledge of community assets and opportunities.

Our Vision: To be the catalyst vibrant, connected communities led by inspired leaders with diverse perspective contributing to a better quality of life.

Application - Class of 2026

Thank you for your interest in Leadership Lake County, an independent 501(c)3 leadership program established in 1991 and dedicated to the development of Lake County and its community leaders. Our goal is to provide a forum for participants to **increase their awareness and commitment** to the development of the Lake County community. The program provides a greater understanding of the complex social and economic issues that are shaping the future of Lake County and its residents. By raising the levels of awareness, knowledge, and active participation in the county as a whole, class members are **better prepared to lead the county** in the future.

For more information call Joanie Smalley 352.348.8179 or email: ProgramDirector@LeadershipLakeFL.com.

Selection Criteria:

We are seeking impassioned leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to the growth and success of Lake County. By design, we have limited the class size in order to provide optimal hands-on learning, team building, and networking opportunities. All applications will be reviewed by the Leadership Lake County Board of Regents Selection Committee. Individuals will be selected based on the merits of your application as follows:

- Individuals with excellent potential to play a significant role in the community's future, who have attained a top leadership position within their business or organization, or who have strongly demonstrated a potential for advancement to top leadership positions.
- Individuals who are interested in seeking, or intending to seek public office, boards, commissions, or key volunteer leadership roles.
- Individuals who have demonstrated participation and contribution to the Lake County community.
- Individuals who represent a cross-section of all facets of the community.
- Individuals who will commit to a two (2) year involvement (as described below).
- Applications must be submitted electronically. NO handwritten applications will be accepted.
- Three letters of reference are required- 1. Employer or Direct Supervisor, 2. Leadership Lake County Alumni, 3. Personal

Program Commitments:

Leadership Lake County requires a major time commitment from the participants, with full-day programs held 1-2 times a month for nine months (schedule below). Before you consider participation, we ask that you commit to attendance at LLC programs in their entirety and ensure that you, your employer and family are willing to make a two-year commitment.

Once an applicant has been accepted and has affirmed acceptance, tuition is \$2,000.00. If paid by August 1, 2025 tuition will be discounted to \$1,500.00. Tuition is due and payable in full no later than September 15, 2025. If tuition is not paid by the first class the tuition will go up to \$2500.00. All application withdrawals must be received 14 days in advance of first session for refund less \$50 processing fee.

To graduate from the Leadership Lake County program, participants must: (please initial each line)

- _____ Attend a **MANDATORY OVERNIGHT** session. Failure to attend this session is automatic dismissal from the program. No exceptions.
- _____ Attend Wrap up session.
- _____ Attend all required sessions and conduct themselves in a professional manner. You will be given ample notification prior to each month's class as to the location (with directions) and start time.
- _____ Complete two approved internships (different from participant's own industry). Each internship must be at least 4 hours in length. Participants are responsible for arranging their internships. **All internship paperwork is due by April 10, 2026.**
- _____ **Participants missing more than two sessions will be immediately dismissed from the program. Upon dismissal, there is no appeal and no refund of tuition.**
 - Definition of Absence:**
 - Absence of four (4) hours or more constitutes a full day.
 - Absence of less than four (4) hours constitutes a half day.
- _____ Graduation for the Class of 2026 will be scheduled for **May 2026**. Family and friends are welcome.
- _____ Commit to participation in the second year - Evening Program and Dinner at Class of 2027's Overnight, Assistance with Graduation, Fundraiser and Class Project if not already completed.
- _____ Attend at least one alumni event in the second year.

Application Deadline is May 30, 2025

SUBMIT APPLICATION TO ProgramDirector@LeadershipLakeFL.com,

Mail payments to P.O. Box 1501, Tavares, Florida 32778



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Applicant Name: _____

Class of 2026 Schedule:

Please note and holed these dates on your calendar now. Dates are subject to change until the final schedule is announce at Orientation.

- May 30, 2025 - Applications due
- August 1, 2025 - Discounted Tuition Due \$1500.00
- September 15, 2025 - Tuition Due \$2000.00
- September 25, 2025 - Orientation and Class/Alumni Meet & Greet
- October 20-21 or 27 or 28, 2025 - Overnight Session **(we are confirming dates with facilitators)**
- October 9, 2025 - Economic Development
- November 13, 2025 - Media/ Government Day
- December 11, 2025 - Education Day
- January 8, 2026 - Justice Day
- February 12, 2026 - Healthcare Day
- March 12, 2026 - Agriculture Day
- April 9, 2026 - Human Services Day
- May 14, 2026 - Quality of Life/ Wrap-Up (Mandatory)
- May 2026 - Graduation

As a courtesy to our facilitators, cell phones (voice, e-mail, and text) are not to be used during class meetings, guest presentations, or while on tours. They are permissible during designated breaks.

Employer, please sign below to indicate understanding and agreement of above policies and schedule.

I, _____, confirm the applicant’s obligation to the Leadership Lake Class of 2026 calendar and class days.

Employer or Direct Supervisor Signature

Date

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Applicant Name: _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION	
Name (Last, First, Middle)	
Name Preferred on Name Badge	
Home Address	
Home Phone or Cell Phone	
Personal Email Address	
Years in Lake County	
EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION	
Employer Name	
Employer Phone Number	
Employer Address	
Business Email Address	
Present Title	
Length of Tenure	
Direct Supervisor's Name	
EDUCATION	
High School (City, State, Year)	
College (City, State, Degree, Year) Other (City, State, Degree, Year)	
OTHER INFORMATION	Home _____ Work _____ Both _____
Where Do You Prefer to Receive Communications?	Men (S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X) ____ Ladies (S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X) ____
Shirt Size: (PLEASE NOTE: WOMEN'S SHIRT SIZES RUN SMALL – YOU MAY NEED TO ORDER THE NEXT SIZE UP)	
Are you a graduate of another community-based leadership program? If yes, list program name and graduating year.	

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Applicant Name: _____

Biographical Narrative:

In 75 words or less, please provide a biographical narrative about yourself. We would like to hear about your most notable life achievements, your interests, passions and what makes you "tick".

Professional:

Please provide a brief description of 1) what your place of employment/organization does, and 2) your role in the organization.

Community Involvement:

Please explain how you have been an active participant in the Lake County community. Provide specific details about your community involvement, volunteer efforts, leadership positions held, boards served on, etc. Be sure to include: organization name, explanation of your involvement and contributions, and active participation dates.

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Applicant Name: _____

Leadership:

In your opinion, what is the role and responsibility of a community leader?

Please describe assets and challenges you see for Lake County.

Check List:

- Application Completed- initialed and signed
- 3 Letters of Recommendation are attached- 1. Employer or Direct Supervisor, 2. Leadership Lake County Alumni, 3. Personal
- Completed questions and attached extra pages if necessary
- Checked the Class dates and confirmed with employer you will be at Leadership Lake County on class days
- Confirmed the mandatory dates on calendar
- Reviewed application Criteria and Commitments

Applicant has completed application and agrees to commitment for the Leadership Lake County Class of 2027.

Applicant's Printed Name

Applicant's Signature

Date

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