



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 2027

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 of class 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 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 from someone who is knowledgeable about your leadership performance and potential are required. - 1. Employer or Direct Supervisor, 2. Leadership Lake Alumni, and 3. Personal Reference**
- Please include a headshot with application

Application Deadline is May 15, 2026

SUBMIT APPLICATION TO ProgramDirector@LeadershipLakeFL.com,

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

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, 2026 tuition will be discounted to \$1,500.00. Tuition is due and payable in full no later than September 15, 2026.** 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. Dates are October 7, 2026 7:30am to October 8, 2026 4:00pm.

Mandatory Sessions- Orientation (9/25/26), Overnight (10/7-10/8), Quality of Life (5/13/2027), Fundraiser (TBD by class), Graduation (October 2027).

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 May 13, 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 2027 will be scheduled for **October 2027**. Family and friends are welcome.

Commitment to participation after your class' Quality of Life Class Day - Evening Program and Dinner at Class of 2028's Overnight, Assistance with Class of 2028's Graduation, Fundraiser and Class Project if not already completed.

Attend at least one alumni event after graduation outside of class committed days (above for committed days).

Class of 2027 Schedule:

Please add these dates on your calendar now. Dates are subject to change until the final schedule is announced at Orientation. Dates and Class Day Topics are subject to change.

May 15, 2026 - Applications due

August 1, 2026 - Discounted Tuition Due \$1500.00

September 15, 2026 - Tuition Due \$2000.00

September 25, 2026 - Orientation and Class/Alumni Meet & Greet

******October 7-8 - Overnight Session (Mandatory)**

October 15, 2026 - Economic Development

November 12, 2026 - Government Day

December 10, 2026 - Education Day

January 14, 2027 - Justice Day

February 11, 2027 - Healthcare Day

March 11, 2027 - Agriculture Day

April 8, 2027 - Human Services Day

May 13, 2027 - Quality of Life/ Wrap-Up (Mandatory)

October 2027 - Graduation (Mandatory) This is an evening event

2027 Class Fundraiser- TBD by class

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 Commitment

Please have your employer or direct supervisor sign below to indicate understanding and agreement of above policies and schedule.

This candidate has my full support to participate in the Leadership Lake County Class of 2027. I am award of the time commitment and Class days listed above. I understand the commitment involved for his/her effective participation.

Employer or Direct Supervisor Signature & Date

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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

Where Do You Prefer to Receive Communications?

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.

Home Work Both

Men (S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X) Ladies (S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X)

Biographical Narrative:

In 75 words or less, please provide a biographical narrative about yourself- most notable life achievements, your personal interests, and hobbies.

Professional:

Briefly describe your place of employment, your current position at your company and your corresponding responsibilities.

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Community Involvement:

Please list your community, civic, professional, social and other organizations you are or have been a member or involved in within the last three years. State your leadership roles and indicate significant contributions you have made in the organization and number of years of your involvement. Share your volunteering with the organizations in the community.

Leadership:

Why do you want to participate in Leadership Lake County? What makes you a good candidate for Leadership Lake County Class of 2027?

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Please describe 3 assets and challenges you see in Lake County. How would you resolve the challenges?

What is a defining moment that shaped your leadership philosophy, such as a project where you realized the importance of leading people, not just managing tasks.

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 Reference
- 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
- Headshot Included

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

Applicant's Printed Name _____

Applicant's Signature and Date _____

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