



LEADERSHIP LAMAR COUNTY APPLICATION PACKET CLASS OF 2026-2027

Our Vision

To strengthen and transform the community of Lamar County through programs centered around leadership development, community study, and community involvement.

Our Mission

To equip and engage leaders for the benefit of Lamar County.

Why Leadership Lamar County?

The Leadership Lamar County program is designed to incorporate key leadership objectives emphasizing professional and community development. Throughout the course of the program outline, members will be exposed to both professional speakers and honorary community leaders as well as participate in various group events that will highlight their personal strengths and the needs of the community. Participants will be given the tools necessary to question standard practices, encourage new visions, and empower others to act and make a difference in their community.

Application Instructions

Read all the information attached and follow all the instructions and deadlines stated throughout this application. Provide the information as requested relevant to your own experience and background. Candidates will only be considered with a completed application including the required signatures.

Selection

The Leadership Lamar County Class of 2026-2027 will be chosen through a selection process by members of the Leadership Lamar County Board Selection Committee. Selection will be made on the following criteria: commitments to civic involvement and the Lamar County community, potential for community leadership, and professional as well as personal achievement. Applicants may also be interviewed.

Tuition

Tuition for each participant in Leadership Lamar County is \$750. Financial assistance may be available. Tuition is payable to the Lamar County Chamber of Commerce upon notification of acceptance and due per the deadlines listed below. Tuition is nonrefundable.

Deadlines

Application submission deadline: June 30, 2026

Final selection and notification: July 10, 2026

Minimum of \$375 (50%) of tuition fee payment: July 17, 2026

Final tuition fee payment: July 31, 2026

Please deliver to:

Lamar County Chamber of Commerce
Attn. Leadership Lamar County Board Selection Committee
8 W Plaza
Paris, TX 75460

Questions

Lamar County Chamber of Commerce (903) 784-2501

LEADERSHIP LAMAR COUNTY CLASS OF 2026-2027

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

CLASS CURRICULUM *	DATE	TIME
Fall Retreat **	Thursday, September 17, 2026	5:00pm to 8:00pm
Diversity and Personality	Friday, September 18, 2026	9:00am to 5:00pm
East Texas A & M Challenge Course	Thursday, October 8, 2026	8:00am to 5:00pm
Health Care/Crisis Management	Thursday, November 12, 2026	9:00am to 5:00pm
Time Management	Thursday, December 10, 2026	9:00am to 5:00pm
History of Paris and Lamar County	Thursday, January 14, 2027	9:00am to 5:00pm
Conflict Resolution	Thursday, February 11, 2027	9:00am to 5:00pm
Leadership Trip **	Thursday, March 11, 2027	All Day
Fundraiser **	Saturday, March 27, 2027	All Day
Local & County Government and Education / Board Member Service & Responsibilities	Thursday, April 8, 2027	9:00am to 5:00pm
Service Day	Thursday, May 13, 2027	8:00am to 4:00pm
Graduation	Thursday, May 13, 2027	6:00pm to 8:00pm

**Order of curriculum is subject to change.*

***To be considered eligible for graduation from Leadership Lamar County, attendance is mandatory at the following events: Fall Retreat, Leadership trip, and Fundraiser. If you are unable to commit to this schedule and these policies, please do not apply at this time.*

ATTENDANCE AND TIME COMMITMENT POLICY

Full participation by each member of Leadership Lamar County is critical. Listed below are the attendance requirements expected.

- Participants are required to attend all full day class sessions. Only four (4) hours may be missed without penalty or make-up. Absences exceeding four (4) hours must be made up in a manner established and approved by the Board in order to graduate.
- Full Attendance at the Fall Retreat and the Leadership Trip in the spring is mandatory.
- Failure to adhere to the above requirements will result in the program participant not graduating with his/her class. The participant may be given the opportunity to come back the following year to fulfill any of the requirements missed and graduate in the spring with that class. All expenses for the makeup sessions will be incurred by the participant.
- Any participant whose absences exceed the above allowances may be asked to withdraw from the program without any portion of the tuition being refunded.
- Participants are expected to attend monthly sessions in their entirety and perform their assignments per Leadership Lamar policies. Participants must notify the Program Chairs if they will need to miss part of a day or will need to leave early. Any missed time will be made up by the participant as assigned by the Board of Directors.
- The Board of Directors reserves the right to adjust the above policies for extenuating circumstances.

This policy will be strictly enforced. Tuition will not be reimbursed for any reason. These commitments must be met to graduate. If a class or event date must be rescheduled, a minimum of 90-day notice will be given.

When necessary to travel to a Leadership Sponsored event, you will be required to travel in the transportation provided by Leadership Lamar County.

Out of respect for our speakers and to avoid class disruption, each member also agrees to arrive on time at all program events. Furthermore, the usage of mobile devices during any event is strictly prohibited. Breaks during class will be scheduled to allow participants to check phone messages and/or emails.

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

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT POLICY

Tuition for each participant in Leadership Lamar County is \$750.

A minimum of \$375 (50%) of the tuition fee must be received by July 17, 2026, with the remainder of tuition fee to be paid no later than July 31, 2026. If full payment is not received by July 31, 2026, the applicant will be dismissed from the class with no refund of funds already paid toward tuition. An alternate candidate for the class will be contacted at that time.

Tuition covers all events and classes listed in the program schedule attached as well as meals and transportation during those events. Any miscellaneous personal expenses are the responsibility of the participant.

Financial assistance may be available. For information on financial assistance, please refer to the Financial Assistance Form included in this packet.

Applications without your employer's signature, if applicable, will not be accepted (see Employer's Certification of Tuition and Attendance form attached).

I, as an applicant, understand and agree with the Attendance, Time, and Financial Commitment Policies.

Applicant's Signature

Date



Please provide your responses to all application questions, in typed form, on a separate sheet of paper.
Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of the completion of this application.

Personal Information

First Name, M.I., Last Name	Name of Company/Organization
Preferred First Name	Title of Position
Date of Birth	Business Address
Home Address	Business Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx)
Years you have lived in the Paris Area	
Home Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx)	
Mobile Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx)	
Email Address	
Preferred mailing address	

Letters of Recommendation

Attach two letters of recommendation. Please do not submit references from family members. Letters may be addressed to the attention of the LLC Board Selection Committee.

Essay

Please answer the following questions. Please limit your responses to a maximum of three pages in total.

1. Why did you apply for Leadership Lamar County?
2. What do you hope to gain from participating in Leadership Lamar County and what do you think you could give to this community as a participant in this program?
3. On an average week, what percentage of time do you devote to leadership and/or service? Please elaborate and explain the scope of your involvement.
4. Please identify issues, opportunities or problems you feel are crucial to the Lamar County area today. How do you feel these issues could be resolved and these opportunities could be developed?
5. Articulate your personal mission statement and describe how it relates to the mission of Leadership Lamar County, which is – to equip and engage leaders for the benefit of Lamar County.

EMPLOYER'S CERTIFICATION OF TUITION AND ATTENDANCE

Leadership Lamar County Board of Directors
Leadership Class of 2026-2027
8 West Plaza
Paris, TX 75460
(903) 784-2501

Applicant Name: _____

Applicants' Employer: _____

Employer's Representative authorized to approve tuition and attendance of applicant:

Name: _____

Title: _____

As a representative of the Employer described above, I am authorized to commit the Employer to the following actions:

- 1) The Employer will pay non-refundable tuition of \$750.00 in full by July 31, 2026, with a minimum of \$375 (50%) paid by July 17, 2026. *
- 2) The Employer will commit to allowing the applicant to attend all Leadership Lamar County classes and activities. Failure to attend may result in removal from the program with NO REFUND OF FEES.

I have examined the Leadership Lamar County 2026-2027 program schedule included in this application package, and I understand that the applicant will be expected to attend a full day class each month as well as all mandatory events. I understand the applicant will not graduate if he/she fails to follow the attendance requirements. I agree that attendance is defined as being on time for all classes and remaining for the full class period.

I recognize that the applicant's attendance is vital to the success of Leadership Lamar County and to the applicant's personal growth as a leader. If the applicant is accepted as a member of the Leadership Lamar County Class of 2026-2027, I will be responsible for ensuring tuition will be paid promptly and that the applicant will attend all classes and required events. **I understand that the applicant will be asked to withdraw from the program if attendance guidelines are not met and there will be no refund of tuition paid.**

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2026.

Applicant's Signature

Employer's Authorized Signature

*If the applicant will be responsible for all or part of the tuition payment, please note those specific changes above and sign.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FORM

The policy of Leadership Lamar County is to provide a limited amount of tuition assistance to those candidates who are accepted into the program and demonstrate financial hardship that will prevent their participation. Award amounts are based on the number of requests received and the amount of funds available each year. Assistance will only be granted for a maximum of 50% of the total tuition costs.

Consideration for tuition is based primarily on demonstrated need. Applications for assistance are confidential and have no bearing on selection.

Applicant Name: _____

Please provide your reasoning for your tuition assistance request in the space below.

I confirm that the above information is a true account of my situation.

Applicant's Signature

Date