

Leadership Fayette Full Information

About the Program

Started by the Fayette Chamber of Commerce in 1980, Leadership Fayette strives to empower and encourage a diverse group of existing and emerging leaders that are prepared and committed to serving Fayette County. The program provides opportunities for individuals to enhance their civic knowledge of Fayette County, hone their leadership skills and network with leaders across the community. Leadership Fayette provides a hands-on educational experience with emphasis on economic development and community awareness, focusing on the interdependencies between sectors of the local economy, as well as the interrelationships of a variety of local issues. Participants will receive a better understanding of how our community works, will build relationships with the region's leaders, and will be inspired to apply their talents to serve the community.

Students can expect classroom as well as community visits throughout the program. Continuing for 2023-24, Leadership Fayette is partnering with the University of Georgia Fanning Institute for Leadership Development for facilitation of leadership topics on several class days.

The purpose of Leadership Fayette is to provide participants with experiences that enhance their knowledge of the community and provide opportunities to grow as citizens and leaders.

What can Leadership Fayette do for you?

Leadership Fayette prepares the leaders of tomorrow. In this eight-month program, participants will gain:

- An in-depth view of critical issues facing our community
- Personal leadership skills awareness and development
- Access to opportunities for community involvement
- Opportunities to discuss key issues with community leaders
- New and strengthened relationships with peers

What is the time commitment?

The nine-month program includes a mandatory two-day orientation retreat, and seven (7) full-day sessions, and a Graduation Dinner. In addition, each candidate is required to participate in the class project(s) as well as various community events and volunteer opportunities. Sessions will be held on the second Tuesday of the month from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (except for orientation retreat in August and the Graduation Dinner)

What is the class format?

Local, regional, and state leaders will share their knowledge and perspectives through presentations, interactive sessions, role plays, panel discussions and hands-on activities. Class formats will demonstrate real situations, challenges and opportunities in Fayette County, and participants will gain first-hand experience through behind-the-scenes tours of various public and private facilities.

Monthly session topics and dates:

- July 18 - Get to Know You Reception (date tentative)
- August 14-15 - Orientation Retreat
- September 12 - Connecting with the Community
- September 26 - D&I Summit: A Celebration of Diversity
- October 10 - Economic Development
- November 14 - Health and Community Wellness
- January 9 - Education
- February 13 - Governance and Civil Discourse
- March 12 - Law Enforcement and Justice System
- April 9 - Project Presentations & Program Wrap-up
- April 30 - Graduation Dinner

Attendance requirements:

Attendance requirements reflect the commitment necessary to receive a meaningful experience from investment in the Leadership Fayette program. Participants and their employers must be willing to commit the necessary time to fully participate in the program.

Participants are required to attend the mandatory orientation retreat and all monthly sessions in their entirety. Participants must also commit time necessary to work with classmates on class project. While we understand that sometimes an absence is unavoidable, **a participant may not miss more than one (1) class session and must complete additional enrichment activities to make up any missed time.**

Orientation retreat:

Leadership Fayette is built on strong fundamental leadership principles. The program commences in August with a **mandatory overnight** retreat. Class members will participate in a number of team building, leadership-style exploration exercises and networking activities designed to demonstrate the dynamics of effective leadership. Fundamental background information about the community as well as an overview of the class projects will also be discussed during the retreat.

Class project:

The class project serves as a central component of the Leadership Fayette experience. The project provides participants with an opportunity to turn concepts into workable projects and problem-solving by working in teams to accomplish a larger mission. The project directly correlates with themes explored during class sessions and is a capstone to the Leadership Fayette class experience. The project may involve exploration of the civic health of Fayette County including social connectedness, community involvement, political action and participation, and confidence in institutions.

Enrichment activities:

Beyond the monthly class sessions, periodic optional opportunities will be provided for additional enrichment of leadership and community knowledge. Examples include a day of optional tours of local industry and attendance at local government meetings.

Application process timeline:

April 26 - May 26 - Application process open. Application link available [HERE](#) starting April 26th.

May 26 - Application submission deadline (5:00 p.m.)

May 30 - June 2 - Applicants contacted to schedule interviews

June 5-9 - Candidate interviews (interview times TBD)

June 12-14 - Candidate selection notification

July 21 - Tuition payment due

July 21 - Wait list notification

July 18* - Class Introduction & Alumni Reception

August 14-15 - Mandatory orientation retreat

Tuition:

Tuition for Leadership Fayette is \$895 and includes all expenses for the monthly sessions, orientation retreat, meals, limited transportation, and graduation dinner. Costs of any optional enrichment opportunities, if any, are not included. Tuition must be paid in full by July 28, 2023 and is non-refundable.

Completed applications may be submitted in one of the following ways:

- Email to Cereto@FayetteChamber.org, *subject line: LF Application Submission*
- Drop off or mail to: Fayette Chamber of Commerce, 600 W. Lanier Avenue, Suite 205, Fayetteville, GA 30214

Further information:

Questions or requests for further information about Leadership Fayette should be directed to Cereto Bean via email: Cereto@FayetteChamber.org or phone: 770-461-5946.