

Thank you for your interest in Leadership Florida!

As you prepare to complete this application, please review the following information designed to help explain more about Leadership Florida and the selection process. A statewide Selection Committee reviews each application, and your application should reflect who you are.

Leadership Florida recommends working through the entire application separately before submitting the online application. The following pages outline the information that will be requested on the final online application.

Having the following items will help complete the final application:

- High-quality professional color headshot (300 dpi or greater)
- Professional bio (175 words or less)
- \$75 application fee
- Previous ten years of employment history
- Names and contact information for two references
 - *One reference **must** be a Leadership Florida member*
- Résumé no longer than three pages in length

Please note that all open-ended questions are limited to 100 words for each response unless otherwise noted. All applications must be digitally submitted through the official Leadership Florida online application portal.

No paper or emailed applications will be processed.

CLASS SESSION DATES

The Connect Class program has four in-person sessions throughout the calendar year from September-April. The Class session dates can be found at <https://www.leadershipflorida.org/apply-or-refer> and will also be on the application when it opens so that you can ensure that the dates will work for you to participate.

Full attendance is required for the entirety of all four sessions and the Leadership Florida Annual Meeting in June.

TUITION INFORMATION

Tuition for the Connect Class Program is \$4,000 and covers all of your registration fees, activities, local transportation, and most meals for the entire Leadership Florida Class program. The annual meeting registration fee and your program year of membership dues are also covered under your tuition.

Tuition does not include travel or hotel room fees for any of the sessions, including the Leadership Florida Annual Meeting.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Leadership Florida Selection Committee, comprised of Leadership Florida graduates from throughout the state, seeks to identify those individuals most likely to utilize their leadership abilities for the long-term benefit of Florida and individuals who are committed to making Florida a better place in which to live and prosper. Throughout the application process, including discussions with references, the committee strives to select participants who will represent Florida's diversity.

The basic profile and criteria for selection include the following:

- Florida's rising leaders with significant achievements in career and community
- Sincere concern about the future of Florida and a personal commitment to help shape its future
- Demonstrated commitment to the community through past and present activities
- The potential for exercising substantial leadership in the future
- Willingness to commit the time and energy necessary to continue involvement in the organization

AGE REQUIREMENTS

Leadership Florida Connect and Cornerstone Program applicants must meet specific age requirements. The Leadership Florida Education Program has no age requirements.

- Applicants aged 25-39 are eligible for the Leadership Florida Connect Program.
- Applicants must be 40 years of age or older to be eligible for the Cornerstone Class Program.

The specified age is as of September 1 for the upcoming class year. For example, for the 2027-2028 Program Year, the specified date is September 1, 2027.

PREVIOUS GRADUATES

It is a rare exception when Leadership Florida accepts a member into more than one Class Program. If you are a current member of Leadership Florida and are interested in applying for a Class different from the one you graduated from, please contact us immediately so we can provide some guidance. Please reach out to Abbey Stewart at astewart@leadershipflorida.org or 850-321-1100.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Name (prefix, first, MI, last, suffix), including preferred name
- Professional email / personal email
- Business phone / cell phone
- Business county / residence county
- Professional title / role
- School / district / company name
- Business address
- Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter (if applicable)
- Assistant's name, email, and phone (if applicable)
- Have you ever applied to Leadership Florida? If so, how many times?
- Have you attended any Leadership Florida events in the past?
- Have you ever graduated from a Leadership Florida program?
- How did you find Leadership Florida?
- How many years have you lived in Florida?

DEMOGRAPHICS

- Gender
- Age / date of birth
- Race / ethnicity
- Military or public safety service
- Misdemeanor or felony conviction (this does not automatically preclude you from participation in the program)

EMPLOYMENT

- Please list your educational and military (if applicable) achievements and some of your awards or honors that you are most proud of.
- Please state your workplace's mission statement. If your workplace does not have a mission statement, please indicate your own or elaborate on your role in your workplace.
- Briefly describe your current position and corresponding responsibilities.
- Please list employment for the past ten years in reverse chronological order (including active military duty). List beginning and ending dates and your job title. Do not include your current role.
- Current business category (Accounting, Government, Healthcare, Law Enforcement, Real Estate, Tourism, etc.)

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY

The Selection Committee places great emphasis on the time you commit to improving your community through volunteer activities.

In order of importance to you, list up to five organizations in which you are currently active or have been active in the past, and in which you have assumed a leadership role. Organizations may include (but are not limited to):

- Volunteer
 - Community
 - Civic
 - Professional
 - Business
 - Social
 - Athletic
 - Religious
- Please list any other business or professional organizations, board, or civic/volunteer activities (example: Chamber, First Coast Manufacturers Association, Big Brothers Big Sisters, etc.) in which you are involved that were not outlined in your previous answer.
 - Please describe an issue that you have impacted personally, which illustrates your actions as a trustee of your community.
 - If you have not had the time or interest to become actively involved, what conditions have changed that now enable you to seek involvement in your community and state?

LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVE

At Leadership Florida, we convene a statewide community of leaders to recharge their leadership skills and educate and inspire them to work for a better Florida. We provide meaningful forums for sharing essential information and viewpoints; we create opportunities for experiences that are inviting, inspiring, and of lasting value.

- Describe your unique blend of personality, skills, and life experiences that you would contribute to your class and the Leadership Florida mission.
- Explain what you consider the two most pressing problems facing Florida.
- Please share what you love most about Florida.

RÉSUMÉ

- You must upload your professional résumé (limited to three pages) in PDF or Word format.

REFERENCES

- Please list contact information for two people who are in a position to comment on what you would bring to Leadership Florida's program.
- ***The first reference listed must be a Leadership Florida member.***
- References will be checked for all applicants.
- Provide their full and accurate name, title, business address, telephone number, and email address.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

- You will be required to upload a high-quality color headshot photo (cropped to shoulders).
- You will also provide a professional bio describing yourself. The bio should be **175 words or less** and written in the third person. Please include personal information that helps define you, such as family, pets, hobbies, and interests.
- Please provide us with a 'fun fact' about yourself that others would not be likely to know.

Upon acceptance into the program, this information will be used to create a class directory.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

The application fee for Leadership Florida Connect Class is \$75. You may use your credit card for payment during the application process.