



SPRING 2026 COURSE OUTLINE



DAY 1

Thursday, January 22
8:00am-4:30pm

OPENING RETREAT - Appalachian Theatre of the High Country

Meet your classmates and begin your leadership development journey with a day of group activities and guest speakers.



DAY 2

Thursday, February 5
8:00am-4:30pm

UNDERSTANDING LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY

What is leadership? How do we effectively engage in the leadership process? This session will help participants explore leadership in new ways and further develop a leadership mindset.



DAY 3

Friday, February 13
8:30am-10:30am

CLIFTON STRENGTHS ASSESSMENT

Now that your Clifton Strengths assessment has been completed, Dr. Street will review the various leadership traits and help you understand how to further complement your unique skillset.



DAY 4

Thursday, February 19
8:00am-4:30pm

FIRST, LEAD YOURSELF

Engaging effectively in the leadership process requires self-reflection and self-awareness of one's values, leadership styles, strengths, and weaknesses.



DAY 5

Thursday, March 5
8:00am-4:30pm

CREATING WINNING TEAMS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The session focuses on effective team building and examines how organizational culture impacts overall success.



DAY 6

Thursday, March 19
8:00am-4:30pm

STRATEGIC THINKING & PLANNING

People and organizations all benefit from forethought, intentionality, and mindfulness. This session will give participants the opportunity to see the value and the importance of strategic thinking and planning.



DAY 7

Thursday, April 2
8:00am-4:30pm

UNITY AND COMMUNITY

The great "challenge" for Watauga Leadership Challenge is for participants to see themselves as agents of change in their communities. This session will focus on how to positively impact the community and how to effectively engage others to enact change.



DAY 8

Thursday, April 16
8:00am-4:30pm

THE NEXT STEP

The Watauga Leadership Institute has provided an opportunity for participants to learn about themselves, leadership, and their community. Now what? Participants will consider how to take what they have learned and apply it to their professional, civic, and personal lives.



MAKE UP DAY

Thursday, April 30
8:00am-4:30pm