



LEADERSHIP RUSSELLVILLE

The Challenge

Leaders are not born; they are developed. Unfortunately, many people do not realize this fact. We take for granted the future of our area by simply assuming that the appropriate leadership talent will emerge to guide us whenever we need it. There is no better program to serve as the training ground for our future leaders than Leadership Russellville. The keys to the River Valley's future are knowledgeable and skilled leaders who have an awareness and understanding of all facets of our community, including government, business, education, recreation, utilities, infrastructure, housing, health care, social services and more.

The Purpose

Leadership Russellville is aimed at developing a network of competent leaders for present and future community needs. To meet this goal, LR seeks to:

- Identify and motivate individuals with leadership potential;
- Acquaint them with community needs, challenges and opportunities;
- Offer a forum of exchange on methods for dealing with community issues;
- Challenge potential leader to become involved with local issues and the decision-making process.

Accomplishing our Objectives

Leadership Russellville seeks to develop community leaders by training and informing participants on a wide array of local public policy issues and concerns. In-depth training sessions focus on these issues, exploring their background, origin and present day-status. The program covers a full slate of topics including government, the area's economy, education, social services and much more. The sessions combine lectures, tours, dialogue and interaction between speakers and participants.

Curriculum

The curriculum may vary slightly from year to year, but a typical year's sessions are as follow:

- Class Reception
- Orientation/Retreat
- Federal/County Government
- Your Community
- Christmas Parade & Walk-Through
- Health and Human Services
- City Government
- Education
- State Government
- Law Enforcement
- Tourism
- Graduation

Criteria for Selection

- Strongly professed interest and commitment to serve the River Valley area beyond the training period.
- Willingness to devote time to Leadership Russellville in terms of attendance and field projects during the program.
- An occupational commitment to remain in the Pope County area or little likelihood of transfer in the immediate future.
- Community and/or civic service leadership as evidenced by the breadth and level of involvement in non-employment-related volunteer activities within the Pope County area or demonstration of interest in becoming more involved.
- Demonstration of leadership skills and abilities on the job.
- Demonstration of strong interpersonal skills and a tendency to be proactive on issues of concern to the community.
- Ability to make a substantive contribution to the program, both in terms of issues and projects, as well as networking with peers.
- Financial and time commitment of applicant's employer or sponsoring organization for applicant to participate in Leadership Russellville.
- Commitment to LR (simultaneous or concurring participation in other local, regional, or state leadership programs is not allowed.)
- Residence or employment in Pope County for a minimum of one year.

Background

Leadership Russellville has been a program of the Russellville Area Chamber of Commerce since 1986. Since it began, Leadership Russellville has had over 400 graduates, many of which have become prominent leaders in the River Valley.

Participant selection

An anonymous selection committee will give careful attention to choosing a class that represents a cross-section of the community and reflects its diversity with a balanced gender, race, socio-economic, and geographic representation that closely parallels the demographics of the area. Participants will be active in business, education, the arts, government, nonprofit, and community-based organizations. Chamber membership is a requirement for participation. The competition for participation grows each year, and many potential participants will be second and third-time applicants.

Tuition

The tuition fee for each participant selected is \$600 and is payable in full prior to the class announcement.

Time Commitment

The Leadership Russellville program consists of **ten-full day sessions plus a two-day out-of-town retreat**. Sessions are usually held on the third Thursday each month from October through May, but a complete calendar will be provided to each participant prior to their acceptance. **Attendance at an overnight orientation/retreat prior to the first session is required.** Some sessions will be conducted by the class members and will require planning time **over and above scheduled class time**. Additional projects may be assigned. Program participants are expected to attend each monthly session. While emergencies do arise, any participant missing more than sixteen (16) hours of scheduled events, for whatever reason, shall be automatically dropped from the program and no portion of the tuition will be refunded. Upon missing eight (8) hours, the participant will be reminded of his/her attendance status. Upon missing twelve (12) hours, the participant's employer will be notified of the attendance status.

Alumni Association

Upon completion of the Leadership Russellville program, participants are eligible for membership into the organization's alumni association. The Leadership Russellville Alumni Association is organized to continue the ongoing process of leadership development for the Pope County area.

Application Instructions

Type or print in black ink. Please complete each section fully. Limit answers to the space available. Application **must be signed by both the applicant and employer/sponsor** and returned to Leadership Russellville no later than Tuesday, September 5, 2017. **Application should contain a recent, high quality color head shot.** The photo may accompany the application or it may be sent separately by e-mail. **Two letters of recommendation** are required - one from an employer or co-worker and one from a community source who can speak to applicant's ability to meet selection criteria. Letters may accompany the application or may be sent separately, and should be sent to: Stephanie Barnes-Beerman, Leadership Russellville, 708 West Main, Russellville, AR 72801 or sbeerman@russellville.org. Applications and reference letters are the property of the Russellville Area Chamber of Commerce and will remain confidential. If you have any questions, please call Stephanie Barnes-Beerman at 479-968-2530.

Please complete the following: *(please print)*

Applicant's Name

Employer/Sponsor Name

Reference Letters will be sent by:

1. _____

2. _____



I. Personal Data

Last _____ First _____ Middle _____

Preferred on Name Tag: _____

Male _____ Female _____

Work Title _____

Employer _____

Employer Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phones (W) _____ (H) _____

(C) _____

Emergency Contact (name and phone)

Have you participated in Leadership programs in other cities? Y__ N__

If yes, please list cities and year(s)?

Have you previously applied to Leadership Russellville? Y__ N__

If yes, in what year(s)? _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



I. Personal Data (continued)

Place of Birth _____ Years residence in Pope County _____

Spouse's Name if Applicable _____

Children's Names and Ages

Leisure Activities

One unusual or "fun" fact about yourself (required)

II. Background

Attach the following information:

- Employment (since graduation from high school or college through current; please include employment responsibilities)
- Business/ Professional Affiliations (include professional/trade associations, civic clubs or other professional activities)
- Civic/Community/Volunteer Affiliation (may include civic, religious, political, government, social, athletic or other activities)
- Special Awards or Honors (include career or civic/community awards)
- Education (include high school, college and post graduate)

III. Community Involvement

Please answer the following questions, using no more than two sheets.

Additional information will not be considered.

- What leadership qualities do you possess and how have you used them?
- What do you believe are the two most significant issues or problems facing the River Valley at this time?
- What action would you suggest to address **one** of the issues or problems?
- Drawing from your life experiences, describe an example of your volunteerism.
- Why do you want to participate in LR and what do you expect to gain?

IV. Participant Commitment

To graduation from Leadership Russellville, a participant is expected to attend all sessions, including the following:

- Class Announcement and Reception: Late September
- Orientation Retreat: Mid October
- At least ten full-day sessions--one each month from October through June, generally on the third Thursday with some exceptions.
- Graduation Luncheon
- Additional enhancement sessions/projects
- A complete calendar will provided prior to the new class announcement.
- Also see *Time Commitment* on Page 3

I understand the purposes of the Leadership Russellville program and, if selected, I will devote the time and resources necessary to complete the program. I understand that by missing the retreat or by missing any more than 16 hours of class time, for whatever reason, I will be asked to withdraw from the program and no portion of the tuition will be refunded. I further agree to abide by the confidentiality policies of the LR program. I understand the above commitments and agree to be bound by them in signing this application.

Applicant Signature _____

Date _____



V. Tuition

If accepted into the Leadership Russellville program, you or your employer (or sponsor if other than employer) will be billed for the tuition fee of \$600. Tuition must be paid in full by Friday, September 29, 2017. Will you or your employer/sponsor pay the entire tuition fee? Y____ N____

If not, who will pay your tuition fee:

If your employer is not paying your tuition, you are encouraged to seek a financial sponsor.

VI. Employer/Sponsor Commitment

Leadership Russellville is grateful to the employer/sponsor for your dedication and support of this program. Our goal each year is to select the very best qualified applicants for the program, so we encourage you to sponsor your most deserving associates. At the same time, we strive for diversity in the class in all areas: gender, race, age, industry, and geography. Thank you for your continuing support. To employer/sponsor:

- If applicant changes jobs (and therefore sponsors) between submission of application and completion of selection process, the application could be ruled null and void.
- Selection to this program is based upon the merit of the candidate, not upon any commitment to any employer/sponsor that a guarantee is in place to select their applicant.
- If the employer/sponsor submits more than one candidate in any given year, it is up to the selection committee to determine if any or all of those candidates is selected. The selection committee will attempt to work with the employer/sponsor in these cases, but is not obligated to do so.
- If applicant is selected but vacates sponsor's employ during the class year, the membership in the class goes with the candidate and not the sponsor, with no tuition refund to the sponsor.

This application has the approval of this organization and the applicant has our full support, which includes the time required to participate fully in the Leadership Russellville program. I understand that absence from the retreat or 16+ hours of missed class time will result in the applicant's dismissal from the program with no tuition refund.

Name and Title of Employer/Sponsor and Company/Firm (Please print)

Signature of Employer/Sponsor