



Program Application



Fall 2026

Leadership Lee County Mission Statement

Leadership Lee County is dedicated to strengthening and transforming our community by providing an interactive learning experience creating informed leaders who are inspired to serve as community trustees. The program develops a network of informed, capable and willing leaders who guide this community's future and who share a sense of camaraderie and mutual respect.

Leadership Lee County is a proactive series of retreats, seminars and site visits designed to expose current and emerging leaders to Southwest Florida's greatest challenges and opportunities. The 12-week intensive program begins with a look at our community history at the opening retreat. Twelve full-day sessions follow every other **Friday**; see the attached calendar. Sessions begin at 8:30 am with a networking luncheon and conclude generally by 5:00 p.m. A graduation dinner and celebration conclude the program activities and celebrates the addition of each class of new community leaders to the auspicious alumni group.

Leadership Lee County addresses topics including our community history, community trusteeship, servant leadership, economic bases, healthcare, transportation, education, growth management, social challenges, law enforcement and criminal justice, agriculture, local government, media, the developer's perspective, the arts, cultural diversity and the role of volunteerism within our community. Programs are held at various locations throughout Southwest Florida, providing participants an opportunity to view some of our community's unique facilities and assets.

Participants in Leadership Lee County are selected after submitting a completed application, which is thoroughly reviewed by the selection committee. In selecting the class, committee members first select the most qualified candidates by reviewing all aspects of the application. They then develop a class from those candidates, which provides the best mix of public/private representation, as well as adequate geographic participation from throughout Lee County and the Southwest Florida region.

Developed in 1985, the program was originally a joint venture of the Cape Coral and Fort Myers Chambers of Commerce and the Business Development Corporation of Southwest Florida. The program proved to be a tremendously successful first effort by these organizations and the overall Lee County community in developing a countywide perspective and appreciation for issues that have far-reaching impact. Thus, Leadership Lee County began the development of a pool of leaders who shared common knowledge and the desire for a common vision for our community.

On January 1, 1988, the newly consolidated Chamber of Southwest Florida assumed sole administrative responsibility for Leadership Lee County. The program is supported by the staff of the Chamber and is governed by a Steering Committee composed of program alumni who hold leadership positions throughout the community. Steering Committee members serve two-year terms.

For further information on Leadership Lee County, contact:

David Miller
The Chamber of Southwest Florida
16451 HealthPark Commons Drive
Fort Myers, Florida 33908
Phone: (716) 983-1075
E-mail: chamberswf@gmail.com
www.chamberswf.com





A p p l i c a t i o n

Personal Information

Full Name _____ Date of Birth _____
 Preferred Name: _____ Name to be displayed on Name Badge: _____
 Home Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ E-mail Address _____
 Name of Spouse _____ # of Children _____
 Gender: _____ How many years have you lived in Lee County? _____
 Why did you move to Lee County? _____

Professional Information

Employer _____
 Type of Business or Organization _____
 Your Title/Department _____
 Employer Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Employer Telephone () _____ Fax Number () _____
 Employer Computer or Internet E-mail Address _____
 Is your Employer a member of The Chamber of Southwest Florida? <> Yes, <> No If no, are you a member of another chamber, if yes, please list which one(s)?

Please list educational background. High School _____ Technical _____
 Undergraduate _____ Graduate _____

Please list previous employment

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Please list other extracurricular honors, awards and special interests: _____

During your business career, what do you consider your most significant contribution, skill or achievement?

Community Involvement Information

Leadership Lee County encourages community involvement. What is your primary volunteer role at this time?

Organization _____ Position _____

Describe your responsibility _____

Please list the amount of time you currently commit to community, civic, professional and other organizations.

Please list in order of importance to you, as many as five community, civic, professional, business, religious, social, athletic and other organizations in which **you are or have been a member**.

Organization	Years as a member	Position held
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____

To date, what do you consider your most significant community contribution? _____

Describe an important ambition in your life. Tell what you hope to accomplish or achieve and what position you hope to attain in the future. _____

What do you consider to be your major strengths and qualifications for the Leadership Lee County Program?

How did you hear or from whom did you learn about Leadership Lee County?

Discuss your reason(s) for wanting to be a participant.

What benefits to the community do you feel are likely to result from your participation in Leadership Lee County?

Write a paragraph discussing one specific problem that you have observed within Lee County. Explain why it is important and what issues it raises. Make one suggestion for its solution.

Please identify up to five (5) areas of expertise/interest:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Management | 2. Law | 3. Accounting/Finance |
| 4. Medicine/Health Care | 5. Fund raising | 6. Engineering |
| 7. Education | 8. Manufacturing | 9. Real Estate |
| 10. Marketing | 11. Computer Science | 12. Graphic Design |
| 13. Public Relations | 14. Philanthropy | 15. Journalism |
| 16. Construction | 17. Government Relations | 18. Environmental Science |
| 19. Agriculture | 20. Science | 21. Other (Please elaborate |

Miscellaneous Participant Information:

Special Dietary Needs:	
Medical Conditions:	
Shirt/Blouse Size:	

Please email a **high – resolution color photo in electronic format** suitable for publication and print media. Mail the application and the \$1,800 deposit payable to The Chamber of Southwest Florida at this address: Leadership Lee County, The Chamber of Southwest Florida, 16451 HealthPark Commons Dr, Suite 105, Fort Myers, Florida 33908. You will be contacted via email.



Commitment and Expectations

Please complete and
Return with application & deposit
By October 1st

ATTENDANCE

Leadership Lee County requires a major time commitment from participants. You must attend the opening retreat, at least 9 of the remaining 12 seminars and graduation to complete the program. Do you agree to such a time commitment?

Participants who fail to fulfill their attendance obligations will be asked to withdraw from the program.

Tuition is \$2,950. and covers all materials and meals. CSWF Members Tuition is \$2,850, for General Members, \$2,750 for Major Investors. Tuition is payable by an initial deposit of \$1,800 with the application. A limited number of **scholarships** are available for demonstrated need; maximum scholarship is \$950. Tuition may also be paid through an installment payment plan. Should you require financial assistance, please attach a letter with the completed application and deposit stating the need, why and how the program will benefit you and your organization. **Applicants agree to be bound by the above commitments in signing this application.**



I understand the time commitment involved and the leadership goals of Leadership Lee County. If selected, I am willing to attend each function in its entirety and devote the necessary time to be a contributing member of the Leadership class. I understand that program completion includes a community service project for my class. I understand that (1) if I fail to meet these obligations I will be asked to withdraw from the program and (2) tuition is nonrefundable.

Date: _____
Candidate Signature

As the business owner, employer or supervisor of _____, a candidate for Leadership Lee County, I understand the financial and time commitment of our organization to this educational program. We support fully the goals of the program and the efforts of this candidate.

Company Name: _____

Supporter Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I agree to pay \$ _____ of the Leadership Lee County tuition for the above applicant, if accepted. I understand tuition is nonrefundable.

Financial Sponsor Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____
Financial Sponsor Signature

Mail your completed application, with the **\$1,800 deposit** payable to The Chamber of Southwest Florida at this address: Leadership Lee County, The Chamber of Southwest Florida, 16451 HealthPark Commons Drive, Suite 105, Fort Myers, Florida 33908. You will be contacted via email.



Leadership Lee FALL 2026 a/o 5/21
TENTATIVE



***ALL Programs Are Subject to Change. Regular Class Dates include Lunch.
QUESTIONS? Call 716-983-1075**

PROGRAM DATES

****POTENTIAL PROGRAM** (all programs are a full day)

October 15	Opening Retreat and DISC Training
October 16	SalusCare Ropes Course Team Building
October 30	City of FM Water Treatment & Waste-To-Energy
November 13	Lee County Mosquito Control & Emergency Operations
December 4	Ft. Myers Beach Impact Hurricane/Tourism/Environment
December 18	Local Government, Community Review, Downtown Walking Tour
January 8	LCEC & Punta Gorda Airport
January 22	Non-profit & Social Services Day
February 5	Arthrex & David Lawrence Center
February 19	Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement
March 5	Education K-12 and Post-secondary
March 21-23	Tallahassee Days (two-night optional trip) – Dates tentative
April 2	Agriculture & Agribusiness
April 16	Healthcare and Aging Populations

GRADUATION

April 20 Evening dinner and celebration at 6:30 pm (TENTATIVE DATE)

BONUS LUNCHEON EVENTS

Monthly luncheons are included in the LLC tuition. The class is encouraged to attend to network and learn about business in the community. Dates for these luncheons will be sent to the class as they are scheduled.

****Programs are representative and planning is ongoing**