

# **Leadership Fort Smith - Class of 2020 Application Selection Criteria and Class Information**

## **How do I get in?**

Anyone who lives or works in the Fort Smith area can apply or nominate someone for LFS. Be sure that all parts of your application are completed and turn in on time. The selection committee will review each application, including resume, letters of recommendation, and your essay responses. The selection committee is made up of volunteers from both LFS Alumni and the Chamber Board of Directors' Education Committee.

## **What is the selection committee looking for?**

Leadership Fort Smith is designed to educate and motivate citizens to become leaders in our community. Participation in LFS comes with strings attached – we expect graduates to continue serving the Fort Smith Region, be a champion of community projects, and lead the future of Fort Smith. Therefore, the selection committee will be looking for both potential leaders and current leaders who have the ability to effectively participate in our community. The committee wants to see that an applicant has the motivation and the ability to work on projects or challenges, develop a solution, and take action.

## **I've applied before and was not accepted. Why should I apply again?**

Each year the selection committee makes every effort to put together a diverse class, representative of multiple business sectors, backgrounds, ages, etc. There is always a chance that an applicant comes from a crowded demographic pool that year. For example, if there are 15 bankers in the pool, it's going to be less likely that a particular banker will be admitted that year. Conversely, if there is only one applicant from the non-profit field, it is more likely that individual would be admitted. Of course, the larger the applicant pool, the tougher it becomes to select only 25 participants – so please don't be discouraged if you are not admitted the first time.

## **Why should I commit so much time away from work for Leadership Fort Smith?**

Leadership Fort Smith is more than just another accomplishment on your resume. LFS is a professional development opportunity that benefits the employee, the employer, and our region. It is a commitment to your community and a call to action. The time spent learning and getting connected through the sessions is crucial to having the tools you need to be a leader in our community. Upon graduation, you will be connected to an active, energized network of alumni that will help keep you informed, motivated, and engaged in community efforts. The time spent with your classmates will create a special bond; you will build lasting friendships and a network of trusted colleagues.

## **I've lived in Fort Smith my entire life. Why should I do Leadership Fort Smith?**

The goal of the LFS curriculum is to provide our participants with a 'back-stage pass' experience. You are going to see, hear, and learn the ins-and-outs of many aspects of our region that most citizens wouldn't normally experience. We guarantee you will learn something at each session.

### **Class of 2020 Application Instructions**

**All the application instructions, questions, and information are available on our website.**

If you choose to apply online, you will be able to fill out the application and submit your resume, signed commitment sheet, and essay responses. You may also mail your completed packet to *Leadership Fort Smith 612 Garrison Avenue Fort Smith, AR 72901* or **email it directly** to Susan Krafft at [fschamberleadership@gmail.com](mailto:fschamberleadership@gmail.com)

**A completed packet must include:**

1. Completed printed personal information answers
2. Resume including current employer, education, community involvement, and any applicable military service.
3. Responses to both essay questions.
4. Two letters of recommendation. The preference would be that at least one of your letters comes from a professional reference.

**Letters of recommendation should include the following:**

- The connection to the applicant (how long have you known him/her and in what capacity)
  - The applicant's leadership ability, accomplishments, teamwork, etc. that you have observed. Share their motivation and ability to take the lead on projects.
  - Explain why the applicant would be an excellent participant for LFS and how he/she could make an impact in our community
  - Please include contact information.
5. Completion of tuition payment procedures. The selection committee will not review this page.

**ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY May 17, 2019 by 4:00 p.m.**

Please print clearly or type answers so that the committee can easily read your application.

Please note that both the applicant and the applicant's employer must sign the Statement of Commitment.

All applicants will be notified of the selection committee's recommendations by June 24, 2019.

**Name**

First

Last

**Phone**

**Email**

Have you previously applied for Leadership Fort Smith?

Untitled

Yes  No

Have you confirmed that you can attend all sessions planned for the Class of 2020?

[Class of 2020 Schedule](#)

Untitled

Yes  No

**Please upload your current Resume. Resume must include current employer, education, community involvement, and any applicable military service.**

**Resume**

Upload

or drag files here.

*Please upload your resume in PDF or Word format.*

**Special Accommodations**

*Do you require any special accommodations? Please let us know here.*

**Race/Ethnicity**

**Age**

Please Select

Male  Female

## ESSAY QUESTIONS

**Please submit answers for each of the following essay questions. Application is only considered complete with both questions answered.**

What is one of your proudest accomplishments, either personally and professionally? Explain how you demonstrated leadership, perseverance, and/or a can-do attitude to accomplish your goal.

### Essay 1



What motivates you to apply for Leadership Fort Smith and what do you hope to gain or learn from the program? What do you feel you can contribute to the program and ultimately, our community?

### Essay 2



**Please submit confidential letters of recommendation by requesting those letters to be emailed to Susan Krafft at [fschamberleadership@gmail.com](mailto:fschamberleadership@gmail.com) or mailed to 612 Garrison Avenue, Fort Smith, AR 72901. Please call 479-783-3111 with any questions.**

## Statement of Commitment with Signatures

Please click on this link and print/sign and upload the signatures of commitment with both employer and employee signatures. [Click Here for File Link](#)

### Upload Signed Form Here

Upload

or drag files here.

## Tuition and Funding

**The selection committee will NOT review this page.**

Tuition for each participant is \$1,500 which covers the entire program costs: meals, transportation, lodging, and materials. We ask that each participant make a personal financial commitment of at least **\$250, due by August 15, 2019**. If your employer pays the balance, that is also due by August

15th. Financial arrangements can be made, if necessary. We do not want tuition to be a barrier for participation.

**Tuition Assistance Options:**

1. **Extended Payment Plan\***: The initial payment of \$250 is due by August 15, 2019 and the remaining tuition can be paid out over 8 months (Sept. – April). **Tuition must be paid in full before Commencement.**
2. **Sponsorship**: Are you affiliated with any civic or community organizations that might contribute to your tuition? If so, please visit directly with that organization regarding program costs. Should any questions arise, they can contact the LFS Director.
3. **Tuition Assistance** from the Leadership Fort Smith Alumni Association. Assistance from the LFS Alumni is limited to applicants who represent a non-profit, government, or education institution.

**What portion of the program cost (less your personal commitment) are you seeking assistance?**

**All applicants required to pay a minimum of \$250, personally. Please select from the payment options below determine the responsibility of the remaining commitment of \$1,250.**

**Payment Options**

- Option #1: I will pay the remaining commitment of \$1,250 in full.
- Option #2: I will pay the remaining commitment of \$1,250 through a payment plan (Maximum of 8 Months).
- Option #3: My employer, organization, or sponsor will pay the remaining commitment of \$1,250.

\*If I am selected for LFS and have chosen the Extended Payment Plan, I agree to pay the full amount of program costs even if I withdraw from the program or if I am dropped from class for not meeting attendance requirements.

**Please send invoice to the following employer, organization, or sponsor that will pay the remaining financial commitment.**

**Signature**

**Today's Date**