



2020-21 Junior Leadership Academy

The Junior Leadership Academy (JLA) was created by the Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce and is supported by the Fort Smith regional business community. JLA is a program offered to high school juniors who desire the opportunity to learn more about the Fort Smith Region and the opportunities available in our city. You will meet community leaders from area businesses, government agencies, and civic organizations. You will be introduced into an environment designed to enhance and develop your leadership skills which will benefit you throughout the rest of your life.

Eligibility/Selection Criteria

Applicants must:

- Be a Sophomore at a Sebastian County High School
- Have a desire to improve your school & community and to gain strong leadership skills
- Have an interest in furthering his/her knowledge about Fort Smith and community leadership
- GPA of at least 2.0 and a good attendance record (no excessive absences.) This will be verified by each school.
- Both the student and a parent/guardian must sign off on the attendance policy and application.
- Essay – briefly tell about yourself and what drives you to want to participate in this program
- Commit to **FULL PARTICIPATION** in the Junior Leadership Academy program. Check program dates and ensure you can attend all sessions. The Opening Retreat in August is mandatory.
- There is a minimal program fee for participation: after you are accepted into the class, we ask each student to pay \$25.00 toward the program. The remaining cost is paid by local area businesses that are graciously committed to supporting our program.

The JLA Selection Committee will be the Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, made up of local business and community leaders. There will be approximately 30-40 applicants selected for the class. There is no set amount of students selected from each school -- it is merit-based. Applications, essays, and recommendation letters will be thoroughly reviewed. The committee will be looking for:

- Commitment to personal growth and desire to be successful.
- Motivation to serve, improve, and positively impact the quality of our community. (Don't just say you want things to change, how could you make it happen? If given the opportunity, how would you make a difference?)
- Strength of recommendations
- Quality of Essay -- we want to hear why you want to be in this program.

Important note: we are looking for students from all walks of life, from all backgrounds, from all situations. We want students looking for a chance to be MORE, to do MORE than what they think they can. Students who want to be leaders but haven't had the opportunity yet. Students who are leaders looking to make an impact outside of their school. All are encouraged to apply!

Application Instructions

The Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce thanks you for applying to the Junior Leadership Academy. In order for us to process your application, we ask that you complete the application according to the following instructions:

- **Before completing the application, check the program dates for JLA and ensure that you can attend ALL sessions.**
- If you require additional pages, please label each additional page.
- Please note that **both** the applicant and a parent/guardian must sign the attendance policy and the Program Consent Form.
- Applications are confidential and will only be viewed by the Director of the program and the Selection Committee.

Applications, Essay, Recommendation Letters, and all signatures are due by 5:00 p.m. on February 21, 2020.
Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Applications can be:

- Completed online: www.fortsmithchamber.com/jla
- Emailed to fschamberleadership@gmail.com
- Mailed or delivered to:
Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce
Attention: Susan Krafft
612 Garrison Avenue
Fort Smith, AR 72901
(If mailed, must be received by deadline)
- Turned into your school office by 3:30 p.m. on February 22, 2020

Late applications will not be accepted.

After all application materials have been reviewed, students will be notified if they have been selected to interview with the committee. Interviews will be held in March. Times and locations will be announced as they are determined.

After the interviews have been completed, individual acceptance letters for those selected to JLA will be delivered to schools. The JLA Class list will be announced through the Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce website and social media as well. The official announcement to the public will be made at the New Class Reception/Orientation on May 4, 2020. YOU MUST ACCEPT YOUR POSITION IN THE CLASS BY APRIL 17, 2019 OR YOUR POSITION IN THE CLASS WILL BE FORFEITED TO AN ALTERNATE.

Personal Information

Full Name: _____

Preferred Name for Name Tag: _____

Home Address #1: _____

Home Address #2: _____

Mailing Address (if different than above): _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Emergency Contact Relationship: _____

Emergency Contact(s) Phone: _____

Email Address (participant): _____

Email Address (parent/s): _____

Gender: _____ T-shirt Size: _____

Allergies: _____

Any Other Special Considerations:

School Information

Name of School: _____

Name of Counselor: _____

Phone: _____

If you have a high school resume, you may include it with your application.

Organizations and Activities

Please list any school, volunteer, social, athletic, or other activities/organizations/programs in which you have participated within the last 3-4 years.

Activity/Organization/Program---Grade in School---Leadership---Responsibility/Involvement

Special Awards/Honors/Recognitions

List any special awards, honors or recognitions for academic, school, or community related activities you have received.

Essay

Please write a short essay describing yourself and why you think you would be a good candidate for this program. Let us know what is important to you and what you hope to get out of JLA. What motivates you to participate? Your essay should be no more than 500 words. **Please fill out below or attach your essay to this application.**

Recommendations

Please provide two letters of recommendation from two adult individuals who know you well. Recommendations should be from a teacher, coach, principal, counselor, etc. The letters should come directly from the person you have asked to write them; they can be emailed to fschamberleadership@gmail.com, mailed to the Chamber of Commerce, or turned in to the school office.

Employment

Are you currently employed?

Yes NO

How many hours/week do you work?

If you do work, what is the name of the employer?

Briefly tell us about your job:

Student Signature

By signing below, I agree that should I be selected to participate in the Junior Leadership Academy, I will attend the retreat in full, all program sessions in full, and end of program activities. I have read and understand the attendance policy.

I hereby certify that the information in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I hereby give my permission for the information on this application to be shared with my school representatives and the JLA/Chamber Education Committee.

Applicant's signature:

Date:

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE CONFIDENTIAL



Class of 2020 - 2021 Dates

Application Deadline: February 21, 2020
Class Announced: April, 2020

New Class Reception – May 4, 2020

Opening Retreat – August 7-8, 2020

Innovators in Our Community Session – September 2, 2020

Advanced Manufacturing & IT Session – October 7, 2020

Healthcare Session – November 4, 2020

Public Service & Military Session – December 2, 2020

Higher Education Session – January 13, 2021

Closing Session – February 3, 2021

Commencement – March 2021

Dates subject to change

Attendance Policy

Attendance and active participation in the Junior Leadership Academy monthly sessions are essential to the success of the program. The sessions will be held at locations throughout the community on Wednesdays from approximately 7:45 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Transportation will be provided during the session; students are responsible for meeting the bus at either Northside High School or Southside High School at the appointed time.

YOU ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL OF THE SESSIONS, IN ADDITION TO THE RETREAT AND ANY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES. IF FOR ANY REASON YOU FEEL THAT YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO MEET THIS EXPECTATION DUE TO PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS, BAND, CHOIR, CHEER, DANCE, WORK, ETC. THEN YOU MAY NEED TO RECONSIDER YOUR DECISION TO APPLY FOR THE JUNIOR LEADERSHIP ACADEMY.

Every session is important for the success of your team and for your personal growth in the program. If you have a personal emergency that requires you to miss a Junior Leadership session, you must contact the Junior Leadership Director immediately. The Junior Leadership Academy is designed to be a component of your school responsibilities, as such, we are required to notify your school of any absences. Any unexcused absences may disqualify your continuation in the program. All JLA Session days are considered "school business" and should not count against your school attendance record.

Please remember that JLA is a very selective program. We always have more students apply than we can accept into the program.

We understand that you want to be involved in many activities and have many opportunities to choose from; this will be your choice to participate if selected. Participation in the Opening Retreat is REQUIRED for both days. If you have camps, a family vacation, or other activity that conflicts with either day of the retreat, you need to consider whether or not it will be appropriate for you to apply. There will be no exceptions made. If you miss the Opening Retreat, you will NOT be eligible to continue in the program.

Please notify the JLA Director immediately if you learn you cannot participate in JLA so that another student could possibly take your place in the program.

Parents and Applicants, please sign here that you understand the paragraphs above concerning attendance.

Applicant Signature

Parent Signature

Program Consent Form

Please read the following statements. All signatures must be complete in order for your application to be complete.

1. All JLA participants are expected to be an active, engaged participant of this program.
2. I have checked the dates on the Program Agenda before submitting my application and understand the attendance requirement.
3. During Junior Leadership Academy, photographs and/or videos will be taken.
I consent to the use of the applicant's photograph/image in any literature or media, including social media, involved with Junior Leadership Academy and the
4. ***Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce.***
Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from the bus pick-up site. JLA will provide transportation during each program session, if applicable. All students are required to utilize that transportation unless otherwise notified. If any student should require alternative transportation, the request should be made prior to the program day and must be approved by the Junior Leadership director.
5. A \$25.00 Program Fee will be required of all participants. The fee is due prior to the
6. Opening Retreat.
Parents and participants are required to attend the **NEW CLASS RECEPTION** on May 4, 2020. At least one parent or guardian must attend.
7. Students must follow appropriate dress code for each session as instructed by the
8. Director of Junior Leadership Academy.
A student may be dismissed from the JLA program if a significant behavior issue arises.
9. A no cell phone policy will be instated during class sessions unless on scheduled breaks.

Please Print Name of Applicant: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please Print Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Parent's/Guardian's Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Application Checklist

- √ Completed application
- √ Completed essay
- √ Two letters of recommendation
- √ Attendance Policy signed by parent/guardian and applicant
- √ Program Consent Form signed by parent/guardian and applicant

Junior Leadership Academy Contact Information

Fort Smith Regional Chamber of
Commerce 612 Garrison Avenue
Fort Smith, AR 72901
479-783-3111

JLA Program Director
Susan Krafft
479-242-7494
skrafft@fortsmithchamber.com

Tim Allen, President & CEO of the Fort Smith Regional
Chamber of Commerce
479-783-3111

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