



# Leadership Fort Smith Class of 2021 Application

**Deadline for applications has been extended to Friday, July 17, 2020.**

## **Selection Criteria and Class Information**

### **What do we do in Leadership Fort Smith?**

Leadership Fort Smith consists of one overnight Opening Retreat and 10 day-long sessions from August to May that cover relevant, contemporary issues in our community. Some examples of session topics are Education, Economic Development, Healthcare, Local and State Government. Sessions are typically 7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Our sessions are full of one-of-a-kind experiences, information, and time spent with classmates.

Our motto "Learn. Connect. Lead." states our goal very simply -- to give participants learning opportunities, connect them to the community, and give them the tools to lead. We also use the phrase "back-stage pass" because our sessions give the class an amazing behind the scenes experience. It is both a professional development and community leadership program like no other!

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

Anyone who lives or works in the Fort Smith area can apply for LFS. Be sure that all parts of your application are completed and turned 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 applicant 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. We strongly encourage you to apply again!

### **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 the River Valley 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. In addition, the program will introduce you to other community-minded people from all different industries and backgrounds -- and maybe even get you out of your comfort zone!

## **Class of 2021 Application Instructions**

### **To apply online:**

**All the application instructions, questions, and information are available below.** If you choose to apply online, you will be able to fill out the application, upload your resume, and complete both essay responses. Two recommendation letters must be emailed or mailed in to our office. (see below for additional information on recommendation letters.)

Electronic signatures are available in the application for the applicant and the applicant's supervisor/employer. If preferred, a downloadable copy of the signature form is available and it can then be uploaded to your application.

To save your progress, scroll all the way to the bottom of the application and click "Save".

### **To apply by hard-copy application:**

Download the application from our website or request to have it emailed to you. Completed packets may be mailed 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 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 emailed or mailed to our office.
5. Completion of signature page with employer/supervisor signature (if applicable)
6. Completion of tuition payment procedures. The selection committee will not review this page.

**For ALL applications - Two letters of recommendation should include the following:**

- The connection to the applicant (how long have you known him/her and in what capacity). It is our preference that at least one recommendation letter should come from a professional colleague.
- 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.

**ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 p.m. on FRIDAY July 17, 2020**

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.

## APPLICATION

**Name \***

**Preferred First Name (if different from above)**

**Phone \***

**Email \***

Have you previously applied for Leadership Fort Smith?

**Required**

Yes No

Have you confirmed that you can attend all sessions planned for the Class of 2021?

**Required**

Yes No

**[Class of 2021 Schedule](#)**

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

**Resume \***

**Upload**

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

**Race/Ethnicity**

**Age**

**Please Select**

Male Female

**Special Accommodations**

*Please let us know if you might need any special assistance should you be selected.*

## **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 \***

## **Recommendation Letters**

**Please submit confidential letters of recommendation by requesting those letters to be emailed to Susan Krafft at fschamberleadership@gmail.com or mailed to 612 Garrison Avenue, Fort Smith, AR 72901.**

**Please call 479-783-3111 with any questions.**

## **Signatures: Statement of Commitment**

### **Statement of Commitment with Signature: Applicant**

By signing and completing this application, I affirm that all of my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

### **If selected for the program, I understand:**

- I am expected to attend all LFS Sessions, including the Opening Retreat which is mandatory.
- There will be some activities in addition to the regular session that I may be expected to participate in related to a class project or session content.

Tuition for the program is \$1500 and all participants are asked to pay \$250 personally to show their commitment to the program.

- The full amount of tuition is due to the Chamber no later than August 15, 2020 unless other arrangements have been made with the Director.
- I may observe things during sessions that are not to be shared publicly, either through social media, photographs, texts, or directly through media outlets.
- I cannot use my participation in Leadership Fort Smith in a political campaign to imply endorsement from the program or the Chamber of Commerce.

By signing below I understand and agree to these statements.

**Applicant Signature**

**Statement of Commitment with Signature: Employer**

Our company/organization fully supports the applicant's participation in the Leadership Fort Smith program, should they be selected.

As the applicant's supervisor, I understand that participation in the Leadership Fort Smith program will require time away from work for scheduled sessions. I also understand that during sessions, my employee should only check work email/messages during scheduled breaks unless an emergency arises.

By signing below, I understand and agree to these statements.

**Employer/Supervisor Signature**

**Printed Name of Supervisor**

**Printed/Hard Copy: Statement of Commitment with Signatures**

If your supervisor is not able to sign electronically in your application, please click on this link and print/sign and upload the signatures of commitment with both employer and employee signatures. [Click Here For Signature Form](#)

**Upload Signed Form Here \***

Upload

## Tuition and Funding

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 \$250, due by August 14, 2020. Financial arrangements can be made, if necessary. We do not want tuition to be a barrier for participation.

The selection committee will not consider/review this information during the class selection process. (The manner in which tuition will be paid will have no bearing on selection.)

### Tuition Assistance Options:

1. **Extended Payment Plan\***: The initial payment of \$250 is due by August 14, 2020 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 in regard to program costs. Should any questions arise, they can contact the LFS Director.
3. **Tuition Assistance/Scholarship** from the Leadership Fort Smith Alumni Association. **Assistance is limited to applicants who represent a non-profit, government, or education institution.** Scholarships will be considered by the committee after a participant has been selected for the program.

**Do you represent a non-profit, education, or government entity? \***

Yes    No

**If so, what portion of the program cost (less your personal commitment) are you seeking scholarship assistance?**

25% &#61560;

**Upon selection, participants are asked to pay a minimum of \$250 personally to show commitment to the program. Please select from the payment options below determine the responsibility of the remaining \$1,250 commitment (or amount after any scholarships are awarded).**

### Payment Options \*

Option #1: I will pay the remaining tuition commitment in full.

Option #2: I will pay the remaining tuition commitment through a payment plan\* (Maximum of 8 months).

Option #3: My employer, organization, or sponsor will pay the remaining tuition commitment.

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

**Please sign below showing your agreement to the payment options selected:**

**Signature \***

**Today's Date \***

&#61555;

&#61504;

**Application Submit**

**Save**