



Junior Leadership Academy Application - Class of 2022

JLA was created by the Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce and is supported by the regional business community. JLA is a program for students who want to learn more about their community and the career opportunities available to be successful in the River Valley. We want students from all backgrounds who want to be a better leader and get involved in their community. JLA students will have the opportunity to meet business and community leaders, and elected/government officials. Students will be introduced to an environment designed to enhance and develop leadership skills, plus learning how to build a team project from the ground up. JLA is a "back stage pass" to some of the top employers, businesses and organizations in the River Valley.

Eligibility/ Selection Criteria:

- Open to sophomores in a Sebastian County High School
- Have a desire to improve his/her school and community and to gain strong leadership skills
- Have an interest in furthering his/her knowledge about the River Valley area, community leadership and involvement.
- All students that apply must have a **2.0 GPA** and a **good attendance record** (no excessive absences). This will be verified by each school.
- **Attendance:** Commit to FULL participation in JLA program. Check program dates and ensure that you can attend all sessions. The Opening Retreat in August is mandatory.
- **Required signatures:** both the student and a parent/guardian must sign off on the attendance policy and application.
- **Essay:** 500 words or less stating your motivation for applying for JLA. What makes you want to participate in this program? What goals do you have for being in JLA?
- **Two letters of recommendation:** each applicant needs two letters from an adult (coach, teacher, counselor, club/activity sponsor) telling us why the student should be considered for the program. Letters should be emailed to fschamberleadership@gmail.com, mailed to the Chamber of Commerce (612 Garrison Avenue, FSM 72901) or faxed to 479-783-6110.
- There is a minimal fee for participation - **after** you have been accepted into the class, we ask each student to **pay \$25.00 towards the program**. The remaining cost of the program is underwritten by Chamber members who graciously sponsor this program and our students.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

The Selection Committee shall be members of the Chamber's Education Committee. This committee consists of local business and community leaders. There will be approximately 30-40 students selected for the class. There is no set amount of students from each school that will be selected -- it is merit-based.

Applications, including essay and recommendation letters, will be thoroughly reviewed by the committee. Criteria includes:

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 something changed, how could you make it happen? If given the opportunity, how will 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. Students looking to explore community involvement, career opportunities, and making their mark. All are encouraged to apply!

The list of those selected for the JLA Class will be announced through the Chamber's website and social media in mid-April. Individual acceptance letters will be delivered to each school. We will officially announce the new class to the public/media at the **New Class Orientation event on Tuesday May 11, 2021**. Selected students and their parent/guardian are invited to attend this event.

Application Submission & Deadline

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MONDAY MARCH 1 by 5:00 P.M.

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Applications can be:

- Completed online and submitted by the deadline
- Completed on a paper application available for download or in your school office
- Emailed to fschamberleadership@gmail.com by the deadline
- Mailed or Delivered to: Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce 612 Garrison Avenue Fort Smith, AR 72901 by the deadline
- Turned in to your school counselor by the end of the school day on Monday 3/1/2021 (remember, school offices typically are not open until 5:00 p.m. so plan accordingly!)

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION should be emailed to fschamberleadership@gmail.com, mailed to the Chamber address above, or faxed to 479-783-6110.

Interviews for selected students will be held after Spring Break. Students will be notified if they are selected for an interview.

JLA Dates for Class of 2021:

New Class Orientation with Students and

Parents: Tuesday May 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Opening Retreat: Thursday August 5 and Friday August 6 (Thursday evening and Friday all day. No overnight stay.)

All Sessions are held on Wednesdays:

Session 1: September 1, 2021

Session 2: October 6, 2021

Session 3: November 3, 2021

Session 4: December 1, 2021

Session 5: January 12, 2022

Closing Session: February 2, 2022

Commencement: March 2022

(Dates subject to change. All CDC/ADH guidelines related to COVID will be strictly followed at each session.)

Attendance Policy

Your 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 one Wednesday per month from approximately 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Transportation during the session is provided. Students are responsible for meeting the bus at the designated place and time.

YOU ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL OF THE SESSIONS IN ADDITION TO THE OPENING RETREAT.

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 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 as soon as possible for your absence to be excused. The Junior Leadership Academy is designed to be a component of your school responsibilities, therefore 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 attendance record.

Each JLA class is broken up into teams and each team develops a project to be presented at the end of the year. Each participant will be expected to work with their team on this project as necessary throughout the year.

Please remember that JLA is a selective program -- we always have more students apply than we can accept in the program. If you cannot commit to attend all sessions, please allow another student to take that spot.

We understand that you want to be involved in many activities and have many opportunities to choose from; this will be your choice to make and prioritize your commitments. Participation in the Opening Retreat is REQUIRED. If you have a family vacation, sports camps, or other activity that conflicts with the Opening Retreat, you need to consider whether or not it would be appropriate to apply.

YOU WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO CONTINUE THE PROGRAM IF YOU MISS THE OPENING RETREAT. Do not apply if you know now that you won't be able to make it, as there will be no exceptions made.

We have read and understand the attendance policy:

Yes No

Applicant Signature

Parent Guardian Signature

Printed Parent/Guardian Name

Application Instructions

Please carefully complete the application and read the instructions.

ONLINE: You can fill out the entire JLA application, provide electronic signatures and upload documents on this web form. You will be able to create a username & password so that you can save your progress and return to this application as necessary before the deadline. After 5:00 p.m. on 3/1/2021 no applications can be accepted.

PAPER: If you prefer a paper copy of the application, you can get one from your school office or download from the Chamber's website. Please type or print neatly in blue or black ink so your application can be easily read by the committee. As you complete questions, feel free to add additional pages as necessary, but please label the pages so we know what questions you are answering.

Applications must be submitted online or received at the Chamber of Commerce no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday,

March 1, 2021. Late applications will not be accepted.

If you have any questions about the application process, please email fschamberleadership@gmail.com

Application Form

Name of Applicant

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
First	MI	Last

Preferred Name (if different from formal name)

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
First	Last

Address

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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City

State

Zip Code

Please provide your primary address.

Address

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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City

State

Zip Code

Please provide a secondary address, only if necessary.

Phone

Applicant primary phone number

Alternate/Home Phone

Applicant secondary phone number

Applicant Email

Please type in the email address you check regularly.

Primary Parent/Guardian Name

First

Last

Primary Parent/Guardian Phone Number

Primary parent phone number

Is this also your emergency contact?

Yes No

Primary Parent Email

Primary parent email address

Secondary Parent/Guardian Name

First

Last

Secondary Parent/Guardian Phone Number

Secondary parent phone number

Is this also your emergency contact?

Yes No

Secondary Parent Email

Secondary parent email address

Gender Identification

Male Female

T-shirt Size

Small Medium Large Extra Large XXL XXXL

All selected class members will receive a tshirt at Opening Retreat

Education - School

Name of School:

Name of Counselor:

GPA from last semester:

High School Resume

Please upload your resume in PDF or Word format. If you do not have a resume, you can include your activities below.

Organizations and Activities

School, volunteer, religious, social, athletic, or other programs in which you have participated in over the last 3-4 years.

Activity (include organization and any leadership roles held)

Organization	Role/Responsibility	Duties/Activity
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Special Awards/Honors/Recognition

List Here:

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Are you currently employed?

Yes No

If yes, please tell us about your job and schedule:

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Essay

Please tell us why you want to be in JLA. This is your chance to tell us more about you, your ideas and goals. Don't just repeat what is in your application -- tell us more about you as a person and why this is a program you are interested in being a part of next year.

You may write your essay in word/docs and paste into the box with Ctrl+V.

Please tell us why you want to be in JLA!

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Up to 500 words.

Signature

By signing below, I agree that should I be selected to participate in Junior Leadership Academy, I will attend the Opening Retreat in full, all program sessions in full, and participate fully in team 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, the Chamber Education Committee, and the JLA Director. This information will not be shared with other participants and will remain confidential.

Signature

Date

Program Consent Form (Signed by Student & Parent/Guardian)

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 Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce.***
4. Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from our meeting place to catch the bus. Transportation will be provided 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. Safety of the students in JLA is of utmost importance. The JLA Director will be present at all times with the students. However, by signing this consent form you agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Chamber, Chamber staff and volunteers against any harm or injury that occurs during a JLA session.
6. A \$25.00 Program Fee will be required of all selected participants. The fee is due prior to the Opening Retreat.
7. Selected participants and a parent/guardian are required to attend the NEW CLASS ORIENTATION on May 11, 2021.
8. Inappropriate behavior during a program day will be addressed immediately. Students are expected to be respectful of speakers and presenters that have graciously agreed to spend time with our JLA class.
9. Students must follow appropriate dress code for each session as instructed by the Director of Junior Leadership Academy
10. A no cell phone policy will be instated during class sessions unless on scheduled breaks. If cell phones are out when a presenter is speaking, the Director may withhold the phone until the end of the day.
11. All CDC/Arkansas Dept. of Health guidelines will be followed in relation to COVID-19 safety protocols. Masks, distancing, hand-washing, etc. will all be part of our standard procedures for each session. I understand that if I/my student has flu-like symptoms, has been contact-traced or quarantined, that he/she will not attend a JLA session during that time.

Applicant Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Application Checklist: make sure you have completed everything!

- All required fields have been completed
- All signatures have been completed by student and parent/guardian
- Essay has been completed
- Two letters of recommendation have been requested