



Junior Leadership & Career Academy Application - Class of 2025

JLCA was created by the Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce and is supported by the regional business community. JLCA 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. JLCA students will have the opportunity to meet business and community leaders, and elected/government officials. JLCA is a "back stage pass" to some of the top employers, businesses and organizations in the River Valley.

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Eligibility/ Selection Criteria:

- Open to current 8th grade students in Sebastian County Schools to participate their freshmen year of high school.
- Have an interest in furthering his/her knowledge about the River Valley area, community leadership and career opportunities
- 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.
- Application deadline is Friday, March 15, 2024.
 - **Attendance:** Commit to FULL participation in JLCA program. Check program dates and ensure that you can attend all sessions. The New Class Reception & Opening Retreat in July 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 JLCA. What makes you want to participate in this program? What goals do you have for being in JLCA?
 - **Two recommendation forms:** Each applicant needs two recommendation forms filled out by an adult (coach, teacher, counselor, club/activity sponsor). These forms 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 leaders, community leaders, and educators. 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.

Applications, including essay and recommendation forms, 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.

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 and to do MORE than what they think they can. Students looking to explore community involvement, career opportunities, and making their mark. All are encouraged to apply!

The list of those selected for the JLCA Class will be announced through the Chamber's website and social media in May. Acceptance letters will be emailed to the individuals. We will officially announce the new class to the public/media at the **New Class Reception Event in July**. Selected students and their parent/guardian are invited to attend this event.

Application Submission & Deadline

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE FRIDAY, MARCH 15 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 at the Chamber 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 3/15/24 (remember, school offices typically are not open until 5:00 p.m. so plan accordingly!)

[RECOMMENDATION FORMS](#) 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 in April and early May. Students will be notified if they are selected for an interview.

JLCA Dates for Class of 2025:

New Class Reception: July 25, 2024 (evening event with parent/guardian)

Opening Retreat: July 26, 2024 (all day)

All Sessions are held on Wednesdays:

Session 1: September 4, 2024

Session 2: October 2, 2024

Session 3: November 6, 2024

Session 4: December 4, 2024

Session 5: January 15, 2025

Session 6: February 5, 2025

Closing Session: March 5, 2025

Commencement: April 2025

(Dates subject to change.)

Attendance Policy

Your attendance and active participation in the Junior Leadership & Career Academy monthly sessions are essential to the success of the program. The sessions will be held at locations throughout the community one Wednesday per month from approximately 8:00 am - 3:00 p.m. Transportation during the session is provided. Students are responsible for meeting the bus at the designated place and time (Northside & Southside High School).

YOU ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL OF THE SESSIONS IN ADDITION TO THE NEW CLASS RECEPTION & 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 & CAREER 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 JLCA session, you must contact the Program Director as soon as possible for your absence to be excused. The Junior Leadership & Career 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. It is also important to be ON TIME for each session. Excessive tardiness may be cause for participants to be dismissed from the program.

All JLCA session days are considered "school business" and should not count against your attendance record.

Each JLCA 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 JLCA 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. If you have a family vacation, sports camps, or other activity that conflicts with the New Class Reception or Opening Retreat, you need to consider whether or not it would be appropriate to apply.

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 JLCA application, provide electronic signatures and upload documents on this web form. You will be able to save your progress and return to this application as necessary before the deadline. Scroll down to the bottom of the application and click "save", then copy the link or send it to your email. After 5:00 p.m. on 3/15/2024 no applications can be accepted.

PAPER: If you prefer a paper copy of the application, you can get one from the Chamber 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 Friday, March 15, 2024. 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"/>
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First

MI

Last

Preferred Name (if different from formal name)

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

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

Race/Ethnicity

Optional, but we do hope to have a very diverse class!

Gender Identification

Male Female Prefer not to say

T-shirt Size

Youth Small Youth Medium Youth Large Youth XL

Adult Small Adult Medium Adult Large Adult Extra Large

Adult XXL Adult XXXL

All selected class members will receive a tshirt at Opening Retreat

Education - School

Name of Current School:

Name of School You Are Attending in 9th Grade:

Name of Current School Counselor:

Name of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teacher (If Applicable)

Current GPA:

After Graduating High School, I Plan To:

- Attend college full-time
- Enter the workforce full-time
- Attend college part-time while working
- Undecided

What Fields of Study Interest You?

- Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- Architecture & Construction
- Arts, A/V Technology & Communications
- Business Management & Administration
- Education & Training
- Finance
- Government & Public Administration
- Health Science
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics
-

Please select all that apply

Organizations and Activities

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

Activity

Organization	Role/Responsibility	Duties/Activity
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Special Awards/Honors/Recognition

List Here:

Essay

Please tell us why you want to be in JLCA. 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, or attach your document below.

Please tell us why you want to be in JLCA!

Up to 500 words.

Upload essay document here!

Signature

By signing below, I agree that should I be selected to participate in Junior Leadership & Career Academy, I will attend the New Class Reception in full, 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 JLCA 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 JLCA 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 & Career 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 & Career 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. The meeting places will be at Northside High School and Southside High School. Transportation will be provided during each program session. 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 Program Director.
5. Safety of the students in JLCA is of utmost importance. The JLCA 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 JLCA 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 RECEPTION on July 25, 2024.
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 JLCA class.
9. Students must follow appropriate dress code for each session as instructed by the Director of Junior Leadership & Career 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.

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 recommendation forms have been requested