



Youth Leadership Program Northeast Polk Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber's Youth Leadership Program educates eleventh grade students about the various components that make up a healthy community. Monthly during the school year the students participate in a Leadership Experience, when they meet and interview key business and community leaders about careers in areas such as Business & Industry, the Judicial System, City and County Government, Tourism/Farm and Agriculture.

In September, high school guidance counselors will inform high school juniors about the opportunity to participate in the program. Interested students shall complete an application and return it to their school guidance counselor. The applicants should demonstrate leadership in school and/or community activities, have maintained a B or higher grade average during their sophomore year, and commit to **full** participation in the Youth Leadership Program (all day trips and Tallahassee trip are **mandatory** for completion of the program).

The selection committee will review applications and interview candidates. A maximum of six students will be selected, with an effort made to balance the number of participants from each school. The chosen students and their guidance counselors will be notified via email. A fifteen passenger van or other transportation will be used for each trip. Masks may be required at certain itineraries. Students must provide their own transportation and must arrive and be picked up from the Chamber office at the time specified for each trip.

Program Design/Curriculum

The Youth Leadership Program participants agree to attend six day-long leadership experiences, each focusing on a particular aspect of community life and a mandatory two-day, one-night stay in Tallahassee. Graduation is scheduled for May. Students, parents, school representatives, Northeast Polk Chamber of Commerce representatives and other sponsoring organizations participate in orientation and graduation activities.

Youth Leadership Program Schedule (dates & itineraries are subject to change; times approx. and will be sent via email with agenda before each trip)

- **September 21, 2022** - Applications **must** be received by the Northeast Polk Chamber of Commerce, 35610 Hwy. 27, Haines City, Florida, **by 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 21st.**
- **September 26, 2022** - Interviews will be held at the respective school. Schools will be notified of times. Selected students and guidance counselors will be notified via email.
- **October 6, 2022** - 5:30-6:30 p.m. Parent and Student Orientation at the Northeast Polk Chamber – **Mandatory** – at least one Parent/Guardian and student **Must** attend).
- **October 10, 2022** -8:30 a.m. to approx. 3:30/4 p.m. Leadership Experience – Business & Industry
- **November 14, 2022** – 8:30 a.m. to approx. 4 p.m. Leadership Experience – Agriculture
- **December 12, 2022** – 8:30 a.m. to approx. 4p.m. Leadership Experience – Tourism
- **January 10, 2023** – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (time may vary) Leadership Experience – Polk County Government with Adult Leadership
- **February 14, 2023** - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (time may vary) Leadership Experience – City Government with Adult Leadership
- **March 7-8, 2023** – Overnight trip to Tallahassee (time/itinerary to be provided)
- **April 10, 2023** – 8 a.m. to approx. 4 p.m. (time may vary) Leadership Experience – Team Building
- **May 18, 2023** - 11:30 a.m. to approx. 1:30 p.m. Adult & Youth Leadership **Graduation** Luncheon - (Lake Eva Event Center)

Students will arrive at the Chamber ready to depart by the starting time of each day's activity. Dress for each activity is business attire unless announced otherwise. Polo shirt will be provided by Chamber that must be worn for each trip.