



Leadership Rockwall Class of 2026 Application

Leadership Rockwall

A Flagship program of the Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce

Leadership Rockwall (LR) is a 9-month community leadership program designed to develop the skills leaders need to excel. The program includes a combination of in-depth issue seminars and skill development designed to enhance self-awareness of leadership approaches.

Participants are immersed in a full day traveling class that includes guest speakers, hands-on experiences, tours and relationship building. The goal of each class day is to challenge thinking and inspire participants to get involved in their community.

At the start of this 9-month program, participants are charged with the task of identifying an issue, program or project that needs attention. After selection and approval of the project, the class then plans and executes a sustainable community project.

With over 300 graduates in total, Leadership Rockwall produces a powerhouse of impactful community leaders and a thriving volunteer population that is more likely to serve on boards, volunteer, and give back to the community.

ESTEEMED HISTORY OF LEADERSHIP ROCKWALL



Today, Leadership Rockwall is the single most unique opportunity for emerging and existing leaders to build, collaborate, and steward a vibrant, interconnected community in Rockwall and the surrounding area. The program identifies, educates, and develops leadership skills in approximately 15-20 individuals each year following a competitive application process.

These individuals will represent a diverse background & be made up of multiple industries in the private and public sectors.

For 27 years, Leadership Rockwall has served as the community-based leadership program designed to help individuals grow as leaders and engage in their community. The program provides community immersion experiences and advanced skill development.

The goals are simple...to CONNECT AND LEARN leadership potential...to IGNITE communications between present and future leaders...to INSPIRE new leaders to tackle tough community challenges in an informed and responsible manner with the goal of SUCCEEDING into a strong network of effective community leaders.

If you want a deeper connection to the community and believe leadership is an investment worth making in your career and civic stewardship, Leadership Rockwall is for you! Application to LR is open to persons living within the Rockwall Area.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS



- Please complete each section in full.
- Type or print legibly.
- Required:
 - One letter of recommendation
 - A one-page resume
 - A .jpg file head shot suitable for publication.
- Application must be signed by CEO/Employer and candidate.
- Completed application must be received by **August 11, 2025**.

Applications received after this date will not be eligible for the 2025-2026 class.

- Tuition is \$1,750 and due in full upon notification of acceptance into class.
 - This includes shared accommodations, all materials and most meals for the program.
- Submissions can be sent via email to administrator@rockwallchamber.org or mailed to

Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce
697 East I-30
Rockwall, TX 75087
Attn: LR Class of 2026

- **Applicants will be notified of interview status by August 22, 2025**

Your application will not be considered complete nor reviewed without receipt of all components

SELECTION CRITERIA



Applicants must represent a Chamber-Partner business in good standing

- Partner tuition is \$1750
- Prospective Chamber Partner tuition is \$2500
- Class members are chosen by a selection committee on their own merit based upon the information and attachments completed on the application and selection committee interviews.
- Nominees must have full support of the organization they represent.
- Attendance at orientation, weekend retreat and Rockwall County Days is **mandatory** for graduation. (Note: Should an applicant be unable to attend any of these events, they should wait until another year to apply to participate in the program.)
- Attendance at monthly sessions is **mandatory** for graduation from the program. (Note: one excused absence is allowed.)
- In reviewing applications, the selection committee looks for potential participants who demonstrate the following:
 - Commitment and motivation to serve Rockwall and the area in a volunteer capacity.
 - Policy shaping responsibility or position of leadership in employment and/or volunteer organizations resulting in the potential to have significant influence on important issues facing the community.
 - Ability to make the time commitment required by the program.
 - Previous volunteer experience.

LR 2026 CONFIDENTIAL APPLICATION

APPLICATION INFORMATION



Full Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female

Date of Birth: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile Number: _____

Preferred Email Address: _____

Are you a registered voter? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you currently employed in the Rockwall area? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you self-employed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How long have you been a resident of Rockwall County?

Have you applied for Leadership Rockwall in the past? If yes, when?

EDUCATION INFORMATION



Highest level of education completed:

- ☐ High School/Diploma ☐ Professional/Technical Certification
☐ Some College ☐ 4-Year Degree ☐ Advanced Degree

Name of Institution(s) Attended:

Did you serve in any leadership/volunteer roles while in school? If yes, please list.

CANDIDATE & EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION



Current Employer: _____

Type of Business: _____ Current Title/Position: _____

How long have you been in your current position? _____

Briefly describe your current roles and responsibilities in this position:

Business Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Business Phone: _____ Business Email: _____

Sponsor (May be your employer or an organization such as Rotary, Alumni, etc. If no sponsor, write none.) _____

List previous employment in reverse chronological order:

Employer	Position/Title	Length of Employment

Have you or do you currently serve in any branch of the U.S. military? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list the highest rank obtained during your service:

CANDIDATE & EMPLOYEMENT INFORMATION



What do you consider your highest career achievement to date?

How much time do you commit to volunteerism? _____

List any specific community, civic, religious, political, social, athletic, or other area(s) of which you are or have currently been involved in:

Name of Organization	Dates of Membership	Length of Employment

What is the most significant thing you have learned as a result of your community/volunteer involvement?

What types of volunteer activities do you plan to pursue in the future?

If you have not had the time or interest to become actively involved in the past, what conditions have changed that now enable you to seek involvement in the community? _____

CANDIDATE & EMPLOYEMENT INFORMATION



Briefly describe leadership roles you have held, whether volunteer or professional, and how they have shaped you as a leader today.

What do you feel are the three most significant or pressing issues facing the Rockwall Area today?

1.

2.

3.

What do you feel could be done to solve one of those issues?

What are your hobbies and interests?

Why do you think you should be selected for Leadership Rockwall?

CANDIDATE & EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION



What specific skills/knowledge do you hope to gain from your participation in LR?

Provide a reflective paragraph describing at least two strengths and two weaknesses as it relates to you as a leader?

CEO SPONSORSHIP

I hereby recommend _____ for consideration in the Leadership Rockwall program. If he/she is selected, I agree to provide adequate release time from regular duties to attend the required sessions and outside projects and activities.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Will your company pay the tuition fee of \$1,750 for this applicant?

* \$2,500 for non-Chamber Partners.

☐ Yes

☐ No

CANDIDATE & EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION



PERSONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Please list two persons who are knowledgeable about your leadership performance and potential. In addition to below, please submit **one letter of recommendation** from a Leadership Rockwall alumnus.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Email: _____

Attachment – Letter of Recommendation: _____

COMMITMENT



If accepted into the Leadership Rockwall program, you and/or your employer/sponsor will be billed for the tuition fee, which covers all program costs including meals. Tuition is \$1,750 or \$2,500 for non-Partners. Applications must be received on or before **August 11, 2025**. Applications received after this date will not be eligible for the Leadership Rockwall Class of 2026. If selected, full tuition is due by September 23, 2025, and is non-refundable.

To graduate from Leadership Rockwall, participants are expected to attend all sessions.

Participants should notify the Class Advisor(s) immediately if unable to attend. Only **one** excused absence is allowed for a class date. Participants with multiple absences or who are non-participatory in class project activities may be asked to withdraw from the program with no refund and will not graduate.

The Leadership Rockwall program starts on September 23, 2025, and ends on May 20, 2026. LR meets one full day per month, sessions are generally held on the second Tuesday of each month from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the duration of the 9-month program. There are 3 meetings outside of these hours and will be included in final agenda.

*In addition to regular class days, outside time will be required to complete the community service project.



Class of 2026 Dates

September 23, 2025	Orientation & Reception (Mandatory)
October 3 & 4 2025	Opening Weekend Retreat (Mandatory)
October 21, 2025	Monthly Class Day
November 18, 2025	Monthly Class Day
December 9, 2025	Monthly Class Day & Class Project Presentation
January 13, 2026	Monthly Class Day
February 23 - 24, 2026	Rockwall County Days – Austin, TX (Mandatory)
March 10, 2026	Monthly Class Day
April 14, 2026	Monthly Class Day
May 12, 2026	Monthly Class Day
May 20, 2026	Leadership Rockwall Class of 2026 Graduation!

COMMITMENT



I understand the requirements of the Leadership Rockwall program and if selected will devote the time and resources necessary to complete the program and become an active member of the Leadership Rockwall Alumni Association upon graduation. I also understand that I will be required to complete alternative assignments on any missed program days or portions of days.

Additionally, I acknowledge that if I miss more than one class, I may be asked to withdraw from the program and no portion of the tuition will be refunded.

Each Leadership Rockwall class must complete a community service project that benefits a non-profit organization, city, town, or district in Rockwall County and is sustainable by that organization. The class is responsible for creating, designing, implementing, and completing their project, which must be approved by the Leadership Rockwall committee of the Rockwall Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. All class members are required to participate in their class project, which may include additional meetings, service hours, and other activities deemed necessary by the class members. **Please bear in mind that Participants must be flexible with changes in times due to speaker schedules, program updates, etc.**

I understand the above commitments and agree to be bound by them in signing this application.

I understand that the Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce, through its Leadership Rockwall program, selects participants in such a program based on a variety of considerations.

Accordingly, I agree that the Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce shall in no way be liable to me in the event I am not selected for participation in the program. Furthermore, said Chamber shall not be responsible or liable to me for any claim I might make based on my participation in the Leadership Rockwall program should I be accepted and participate.

I understand the commitment of the Leadership Rockwall program. If selected, I will devote the required time to the program and pay my tuition in full by the stated date.

Verify Eligibility & Completion of Application

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letter of recommendation | <input type="checkbox"/> One – page resume |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Application signed by applicant's CEO or Employer | <input type="checkbox"/> One paragraph bio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Headshot Suitable for Publication | <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to attend all class days & one additional mandatory day |

Applicant Name (please print): _____

Applicant Signature: _____ Date _____

Application must be received by **August 11, 2025.**
You can submit your application via mail or email.

Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce
ATTN: LR Class of 2026
697 East I-30, Rockwall, TX 75087
Or email to Administrator@RockwallChamber.org

For more information: Darby Nielsen, President/CEO Rockwall
Area Chamber of Commerce
Darby@RockwallChamber.org

972-771-5733