

Leadership River Falls

A program of the River Falls Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau

Mission

Leadership River Falls is dedicated to providing a comprehensive learning experience that cultivates community leadership while participants explore key community issues and avenues of involvement.

Program

Following a one-day retreat in September, participants typically meet for a full-day session the first Thursday of each month, October through May. The program focuses on applying leadership skills to facets of the River Falls community including natural resources, government, community life, business/industry, education, health/human services, and heritage. In addition, the class works on a project designed to enhance awareness of community problems and identify systems and methods to affect change.

Testimonials

"I was born and raised in River Falls, yet I learned something new about this great community at every single Leadership River Falls day." – Kerri Olson, Class of 2012-2013

"After completion of the program, I learned that just living and working in this community wasn't enough, you also need to give back. It's not a coincidence that many Leadership River Falls' alumni are also leading and volunteering throughout this great city." – Janet Burns, Class of 2010-2011

"Through the program I was able to learn about the town, resources in the area, and opportunities to get involved. I have been appointed to multiple local boards because of the connections I made through Leadership River Falls." – Kellen Wells-Mangold, Class of 2017-2018

"After being in Leadership River Falls, I felt far more connected to the community and established business relationships that continued after the program ended. I also recommend this program because it taught me about the amazing initiatives in River Falls." – Maria Lewis, Class of 2017-2018

Goals and Objectives:

The program's goal is to prepare future community leaders for positions of responsibility by:

- Acquainting them with significant community processes, programs, and problems
- Teaching them about involvement opportunities, special challenges, and demands using forums with current leaders
- Improving understanding of various economic, social, and political forces impacting the community
- Providing a network of new community talent for service on public and private commissions, agencies, organizations, and associations
- Educating and counseling leaders on skills necessary to become more objective
- Encouraging placement of graduates in key leadership positions in the community

Qualifications:

- A sincere concern about the future of our state and commitment to help shape its future
- Commitment through past and present community involvement
- A demonstrated capacity for leadership within the individual's own organization
- A willingness to commit the energy necessary to complete the program, including monthly attendance at all sessions

Local Experience & Topics:

The sessions are generally held the first Thursday of each month and are designed to provide information on community processes and answer the question, "What can I, as a concerned community leader, do to foster positive change in the River Falls area?" Leadership River Falls participants will meet monthly (8a - 4p) to learn more about the community leadership topics listed below. Topics for these sessions will include skills such as teamwork, goal setting and action planning, ethical leadership, defining a shared vision, and motivation.

September 6 - Leadership Retreat

October 4 - Natural Resources

November 8 – Heritage (*please note: this is the 2nd Thursday of the month*)

December 6 - Community Life

January 3 - Government

February 7 - Business/Industry

March 7 - Education

April 4 - Health and Human Services

May 2 - Reflection and Graduation

September Retreat:

Participants will have the opportunity to explore personal leadership strengths, philosophies, and skills that are applicable to all industries. The retreat will also provide resources for team development that can be easily used and that will build a solid foundation for the Leadership River Falls experience.

Tuition:

The tuition fee is \$800. Tuition is expected upon admittance into the Leadership River Falls program and is non-refundable.

Leadership River Falls – Project Details:

As part of the Leadership River Falls Program, each class is required to participate in a small group community project. The amount of time devoted to the development of the project will be determined by consensus of this group. One representative from the class will be responsible for presenting the idea at the May 2nd Leadership River Falls Graduation.

Examples of Past Projects:

- Handicap Swing in Glen Park
- Hoffman Park Disc Golf Course
- Little Free Libraries
- Benches along Main Street
- Historic Plaques on buildings on Main Street
- Video capture of Leadership River Falls Heritage Day Presenter

Things to consider when selecting a project:

- Would this be a sustainable project, or would someone need to be responsible for maintaining it?
- Is there an unfulfilled need in the community?
- How financially feasible is this project? Is this group willing to fundraise? If yes, how much?
- What resources are currently available?
- Will the project be accomplished in the given timeframe?
- Can the group work together on this project?

For more information, please contact the River Falls Chamber office at 715-425-2533 or marissa@rfchamber.com.

Please return completed application form to the River Falls Chamber by Friday, July 27:

E. marissa@rfchamber.com

M. 215 W Maple Street | River Falls, WI 54022

Leadership River Falls Application

Name: _____

Employer: _____

Job Title: _____

Day Time Phone: _____

Email: _____

Work Address: _____

Home Address: _____

Length of residence in River Falls: _____

How many years do you plan to reside in the River Falls Area (circle one)? >5 5-10 10-15 15<

Education (Beginning with most recent)

Name & City of School	Dates (From-To)	Degree
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Program Expectations

What do you hope to gain from Leadership River Falls?

Please give an example of how you will apply this training.

How do you think this experience will help you in your future community involvement?

Community Involvement

- Record community, civic, religious, political, government, social, athletic, or other activities
- Indicate major role in the organization at this time

Organization: _____

Assignment/Position: _____ Years involved: _____

Describe responsibilities: _____

Describe major accomplishments/goals reached: _____

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Assignment/Position: _____ Years involved: _____

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Assignment/Position: _____ Years involved: _____

Describe responsibilities: _____

Describe major accomplishments/goals reached: _____

Commitment/Attendance: In addition to the opening retreat and the graduation, the time commitment is seven full day sessions. Attendance is required at all sessions. If a participant should miss a session or any portion of a session, they will be subject to review by the Leadership River Falls Committee as to their eligibility for graduation from the program. If selected as a Leadership River Falls participant, I understand that I am committing myself to involvement in the community upon graduation from the program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____