



## **Youth Leadership Hall**

Youth Leadership Hall (YLH) is a leadership development program that informs, motivates, and increases the awareness of selected high school juniors and seniors through interaction with community leaders. The program is an investment in the community's future leadership. It is our goal to build individual leadership skills, foster positive group dynamics, and increase civic and community involvement while creating youth development and youth leadership.

### **HISTORY**

Since the first graduating class in 2006, more than 700 high schoolers have successfully completed the program. These alumni have now become community leaders as highly skilled laborers, attorneys, military leaders, entrepreneurs, teachers, and doctors.

### **WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

Through a series of sessions combining lectures, dialogue among speakers, tours, and audience interaction with those who are civic leaders and professionals, participants learn about such topics as:

Etiquette & Behavior	Quality of Life	Leadership Development
Judicial System	Poverty	Government
Future Investments	Tourism	Economic Development

While each year follows a similar format, each class is adjusted to meet the specific needs and interests of the class while also staying abreast of current events and new venues. This keeps the program fresh, exciting and relevant for each class while still honoring the structure and integrity of the original program.

## **WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?**

Participants should expect that careful planning has gone into the development of every day's program to maximize what is presented for each theme. Students should come with an open mind ready to learn something new and challenge their opinions each day. This is an opportunity for growth!

Participants will...

- ✓ Be given the opportunity to network with business leaders throughout community;
- ✓ Gain career knowledge from a large variety of sources;
- ✓ Gain valuable leadership skills, develop excellent communication skills while realizing the importance of a team;
- ✓ Find their self-esteem is enhanced and verbal expression deepened;
- ✓ Improve their sense of civic responsibility and servant leadership by participating in community service projects;
- ✓ Develop relationships with students with different backgrounds including, ethnic, religious, and cultural groups while interacting with peers from all public and private schools in Hall County;
- ✓ Share in hands-on activities and team building exercises outside of the classroom walls;
- ✓ Develop increasing awareness of their community;
- ✓ Get excited about returning and contributing to our community after college;
- ✓ Find the program enhances classroom curriculum by real world applications; and
- ✓ Become more confident, self-motivated leaders ready to make their mark in our community.

## **WHAT IS THE PROCESS TO BE ACCEPTED?**

The selection process for this program will begin in January of each year with application information being sent to each school. Using the program objectives and eligibility requirements as a guideline, individual educators nominate their student of choice to a designated faculty member who is responsible for: collecting applications; supervising the selection process; and submitting completed applications to the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce in February. Each school may have slight variances to the nomination process. Potential participants are asked to complete an application and provide two letters of reference from a community leader and an educator. Previous applicants who were not chosen may reapply, if eligible.

In March, each finalist will be interviewed by a Selection Committee comprised of members of the business community and educators. The Selection Committee strives to achieve balance in the class by ensuring diversity of race/ethnicity, gender, and schools. All applicants are notified of the results of the selection process in early April of each year.

## **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

Class members are chosen by their own merits based upon their application. The committee seeks representation from a cross-section of each school as each class should be indicative of the diversity of each school.

In reviewing applications, the Selection Committee looks for participants who strongly demonstrate the following criteria:

- Be a rising junior or senior (this may vary at each school) at a public or private high school in Gainesville or Hall County.
- Demonstrate leadership character traits, in and outside of the classroom.
- Exhibit previous volunteer experience and desire to expand involvement within the community.
- Have obvious potential for growing personally and affecting change externally.
- Are willing to commit the time, energy, and positive attitude necessary to complete the program.
- Applicants should have mostly A's and B's in all of their academic classes.
- Applicants should not have attendance issues or be over-committed in other activities. 100% attendance is mandatory for Youth Leadership Hall.
- Applications should be completed fully and neatly with a great deal of thought given to answers.

### **WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?**

YLH begins every August with a Parent/Student Orientation and Reception. The students are then split into two teams – Team A and Team B. From that point on, each team meets 6 additional times with graduation occurring in April. Each program is from 8am to 3:30pm and is an excused absence from school.

Participants are not allowed to switch teams. All program absences are reported immediately to the school representative.

100% participation and completion is mandatory in order to graduate from LHC. Any portion of days missed must be made up. This is a serious time commitment, and participants not complying with the attendance requirement will be dismissed from the program.

### **TUITION:**

After acceptance, participants will be required to pay a \$75 one-time fee to help offset some of the expenses. This fee is submitted to the high school where the student is enrolled. The high school then sends one all-inclusive payment to GHCC.

The remainder of programming fees are supplemented through generous sponsorships through our corporate and private partnerships.

For more information, contact Andi Harmon, VP of Education at 770-532-6206 or email.