



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 900 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.

NEW IN 2020 - We will open applications up to Hall County Homeschoolers.

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
Judicial System
Future Investments

Quality of Life
Poverty
Tourism

Leadership Development
Government
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 high schools in Hall County as well as homeschoolers 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.

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 or be homeschooled (as a rising junior or senior) in 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.
- 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 for the entire day.
- Applications should be completed fully and neatly with a great deal of thought given to answers.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS TO BE ACCEPTED?

For public and private high schoolers:

The selection process for this program will begin in December 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 January. Each school may have slight variances to the nomination process. Potential participants are asked to complete an application and provide one letter of reference from a community leader. Previous applicants who were not chosen may reapply, if eligible.

In February and 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 April of each year.

For contact information at a specific school, please contact the person below:

Cherokee Bluff High School	Karen Filchak
Chestatee High School	Holli Howard
East Hall High School	McKenzie Jackson
Flowery Branch High School	Christi Carter
Gainesville High School	Helen Perry
Johnson High School	Heather Roth
Lakeview Academy	Mike Lawley
Lanier Christian Academy	April Kennedy
Lanier College & Career Academy	Laren Chandler
North Hall High School	Deana Harper
Riverside Military Academy	Col. Bob Cagle
West Hall High School	Suzanne Haynes

For homeschoolers:

Applications will be open beginning in December and may be received by contacting Andi Tippens at andi@ghcc.com. Applicants will complete and submit the application packet directly to Andi Tippens by a set deadline of January 22, 2021. A Homeschool Selection Committee will be assembled by PAC (Program Advisory Committee) Team members (consisting of Leadership Hall Alum) to review all applications. Those chosen to interview will be notified in writing by January 31, 2021. Interviews will occur at the Chamber in February. Written notifications of status into the program will be sent to all interviewed applicants in April.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

YLH begins every August with a mandatory 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 8:30am 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.

Public/Private High Schoolers: This fee is submitted to the high school where the student is enrolled. The high school then sends one all-inclusive payment to GHCC.

Homeschoolers: Those selected participants will need to have a parent become a member of the Chamber. This is to offset the cost of transportation, logistics, chaperones, and support that the school systems all offer as members. The \$75 fee will be invoiced directly to your parent as well.

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

For more information, contact Andi Tippens, VP of Education & Leadership at 770-532-6206 x113 or email at andi@ghcc.com.

