

LEADERSHIP **FOUNTAIN INN**

Transformative Leadership Cohort (TLC) Application Packet

A Program of the Fountain Inn Chamber Foundation

Developing Leaders Who Create Lasting Community Impact

Program Overview

The Transformative Leadership Cohort (TLC) is an immersive leadership experience designed to strengthen individuals, organizations, and the Fountain Inn community. Through hands-on learning, civic engagement, leadership development, and a real-world community project, participants gain the skills and relationships needed to lead effectively in an ever-changing world.

Participants explore Emotional Intelligence & Self-Leadership, Communication & Conflict Resolution, Time Management & Productivity, Community Awareness & Systems Thinking, Economic Development, Local Government, Workforce Development, Fundraising & Resource Development, Marketing & Storytelling, Project Management, and Public-Private Partnerships.

Who Should Apply?

The program is open to individuals who live, work, volunteer, or conduct business in the Fountain Inn area. Ideal participants demonstrate leadership potential, desire to make a positive impact, are committed to personal growth, represent diverse industries and backgrounds, and are willing to collaborate on a community project.

Program Information

Program Dates: August 2026 – May 2027

Estimated Time Commitment: One full-day session per month plus project activities.

Graduation Requirement: Active participation in the completion of the cohort's selected community project.

Application is available online and on paper.

<https://bit.ly/TLCLeadFI2026>

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Program Completion Requirements

Class/Session Attendance & Decorum

Participants are required to attend all monthly sessions during the Leadership Fountain Inn year. Absences could impact a class member's graduation status; an absence requires full approval from chamber staff.

Dress code will always be business casual, unless otherwise informed.

All information discussed in class is non-attributable. Comments and questions are encouraged during the sessions if they are in accord with the program.

Differences in opinions are encouraged. However, participants should strive to be objective and diplomatic and not argumentative. Effective leadership evaluates all sides of the issue before reaching an agreeable solution. Participants must be tolerant of views other than their own, and everyone's opinion is to be respected.

Group Project Participation

Participants must take active responsibility for the class service project. The project is participant-driven and should benefit a charitable organization in the Fountain Inn community. Time outside of the monthly sessions will be required for the project. More information will be provided at the Orientation session.

Class Officers

A Class President, Treasurer, and Secretary will be elected during the Orientation session in January. The class can set additional officers and their roles if desired.

Police or Fire Department Ride-Along

Class participants will be required to participate in a scheduled ride along with one of the following departments: City Police or Fire Departments in Fountain Inn. Waivers and required paperwork may be required by those departments.

City or County Council Meeting Requirement

Class participants will be required to attend a City Council meeting or Greenville or Laurens County Council meeting during their program year. The meeting schedules for all groups are available on each Council's website.

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Tuition, Scholarships and Sponsorships

Program Tuition - Tuition for Leadership Fountain Inn is \$950 for Chamber members. Chamber membership is required in order for applicant to be considered. Participants will be invoiced for tuition once accepted into the program. Tuition will be due before the Orientation session in August.

Scholarships – Scholarships are currently available only for a portion of the Leadership Fountain Inn Tuition on a limited basis. Contact Marnie Schwartz-Hanley for a scholarship application.

Sponsorships - Sponsorships are available for companies desiring a higher level of engagement. All sponsorships include full or partial tuition for at least one class participant.

Gold Sponsor - \$5,000 (One Available) Benefits for the Gold Sponsor include recognition on all Leadership Fountain Inn publications (including session agendas, website, etc.), clickable links to sponsor's website from LFI sites, recognition and opportunity to address the class during Orientation and Graduation, opportunity to meet with class participants throughout the program year, presentation/site visit during applicable session's agenda, list of participants with contact information, and full tuition paid for two participants (must be employees of sponsor).

Supporting Sponsor - \$2,000 Benefits for the Supporting Sponsor include recognition on all Leadership Fountain Inn publications (including session agendas, website, etc.), clickable links to sponsor's website from LGS sites, recognition and opportunity to address the class during Orientation, presentation/site visit during applicable session's agenda, list of participants with contact information, and full tuition paid for one participant (must be employee of sponsor).

Session Sponsor, \$750 (Multiple Available) Benefits for Session Sponsors include choice of session to sponsor with ability to influence the session agenda, time to address the class in the morning or during their lunch break, recognition in session's handouts, sponsor logo and hyperlink on the Leadership Fountain Inn website, recognition at the graduation ceremony, list of participants with contact information, and a \$250 scholarship for one participant (must be employee of sponsor).

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Applicant Information

Name: _____
Preferred Name: _____
Employer: _____
Title: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____
Home Address: _____
Years in Fountain Inn Area: _____

Leadership Readiness Questions

1. What motivates you to apply for TLC?
2. What leadership skills would you most like to strengthen?
3. What unique perspective, experience, or talent would you bring to the cohort?
4. What community issue are you most passionate about?
5. Are you willing to participate in fundraising and project implementation activities?
Yes / No

Community Impact Project Interests

Please rank your interests:

- Education
- Parks & Recreation
- Public Safety
- Youth Development
- Arts & Culture
- Economic Development
- Environmental Stewardship
- Community Beautification
- Workforce Development
- Other: _____

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Essay Questions (Choose One)

Response length: 500–750 words. Please submit online or on a separate page.

Option 1: Describe a challenge facing Fountain Inn that future leaders must address. What role could collaboration play in solving it?

Option 2: Tell us about a time you helped bring people together around a common goal. What did you learn about leadership?

Option 3: What legacy would you like to leave in Fountain Inn and why?

Participant Commitment

Participants are expected to attend Orientation, monthly leadership sessions, participate in the cohort project, attend Graduation, and complete assigned project responsibilities.

Participants may miss no more than two scheduled sessions to remain eligible for graduation.

Employer Acknowledgement

I understand that participation in the Transformative Leadership Cohort requires attendance at monthly sessions and project activities throughout the program year. Our organization supports the applicant's participation and leadership development.

Employer Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Foundation Mission

The Fountain Inn Chamber Foundation is dedicated to empowering the Fountain Inn community through educational scholarships, entrepreneurial support, and comprehensive programs for economic and professional development, including leadership training.