



***Celebrating 33 Years Strong!***

**APPLICATION PACKAGE  
For 2024-2025**

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Applications will be reviewed in confidence.

**The deadline for applying is April 5, 2024**

**Return Application to Leadership Tomorrow**  
c/o Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce  
1615 South Chestnut Street • Lufkin, Texas 75901  
Attn: Shameka Stewart

Applicants will be notified in writing of their acceptance.  
into the program by **July 26<sup>th</sup>**.



**PLEASE READ THIS INFORMATION BEFORE STARTING THE APPLICATION.**

**THE MISSION:**

The Leadership Tomorrow Program is designed to develop community awareness, decision-making skills, and leadership abilities in those teenagers who have untapped potential in these areas.

**THE PROGRAM:**

Leadership Tomorrow will consist of eight sessions, held once per month, from September through April each year. The group also participates in a leadership forum and team building day. Sessions will cover such topics as leadership skills, justice, order, politics, business opportunities and challenges, decision-making, social issues, and team-building activities. Most sessions will begin at 8:00 am and end by 3:00 pm with lunch and transportation provided. Students are required to use transportation provided by the program (school buses) and are not allowed to drive their personal vehicles during sessions.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- To develop leadership skills and to promote community awareness and education.
- To allow students to spend time with local businesses and industries, to view issues and requirements of the workplace,
- To learn of potential career opportunities.

**APPLICANTS MUST:**

- Be classified as sophomores at the time of application submission and will be entering their junior year in high school at the time the program begins in September. The school or home school must be in Angelina County and the student must be a resident of Angelina County.
- Show leadership potential in school, church, or community activities and associations. A student doesn't need to be an active leader at the time of application, only that he/she be interested in learning how to lead and be willing to develop his/her potential.
- **Be available to attend all sessions.** If a conflict should arise after the submission of the application, please contact the Director of Leadership Programs immediately.
- Have transportation to and from the sessions on the dates indicated.
- Pay a \$100 (non-refundable) student fee to help cover the cost of the program.
- Must secure a corporate sponsor to pay \$300 (non-refundable) to help cover the cost of the program.

## TO APPLY:

- **Applicant must:**

- a. Check your calendar and talk with your family to be sure that you will be in town and available to attend all sessions as listed in the PROGRAM CALENDAR. **100% attendance is expected at all sessions.**
- b. Have your parent or legal guardian sign the application for parental permission.
- c. Ask your principal or counselor to complete the enclosed reference form and return it to the Chamber of Commerce office.
- d. Secure a corporate sponsor. This can be any businessperson or individual willing to pay the sponsor fee. Provide a copy of the reference form to your corporate sponsor; ask him or her to return it to Shameka Stewart, Leadership Programs Director with the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce. If your sponsor does not know you, refer to the instructions in the application.
- e. Students who have exhausted avenues for acquiring a sponsor may apply for assistance and attach the request behind the application.
- f. Pay \$100 non-refundable entry fee upon notification of student's selection/acceptance. **DO NOT ENCLOSE FEE WITH APPLICATION. Fees will not be accepted until the class has been selected.**
- g. Complete all consent forms attached to the application.
- h. Provide a Leadership Tomorrow schedule to all extra-curricular activity leaders.
- i. Fill out the application form completely and return it to the Lufkin/Angelina Chamber of Commerce by **3PM on April 5, 2024**.
- j. Only complete applications, accompanied by the two or three required reference forms, will be considered.

- **Principal or High School Counselor must:**

- a. Complete the reference form, including signature and date.
- b. Return the reference to Shameka Stewart at the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce.

- **Corporate sponsor must:**

- a. Complete the reference form, billing information, and sign.
- b. Pay a \$300 sponsor non-refundable fee when billed upon student's acceptance.

## SELECTION PROCESS

- Once turned in, the Leadership Programs Director will remove all student and parental names and sponsors. This is a blind application, and you will get accepted on your own merit. The Committee will review applications and make selections using the objectives of Leadership Tomorrow as a guide and the students' references.
- All applications will remain confidential
- Applicants will be notified in writing of their status with the program by July 26.
- Class size will be limited to a maximum of 25 students.

**COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER PROJECTS—THESE ARE MANDATORY**

- **September 19-22, 2024 - Texas State Forest Festival**
  - Participants will need to complete 6 hours of volunteer service at the Texas State Forest Festival.
- **January 30, 2025 – THE 105<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CHAMBER BANQUET (Pitser Garrison Convention Center)**
  - The class will be assisting the caterer and will be guest waiters for the annual banquet—This is also an opportunity to see a year in review for Angelina County.

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The following application must be completed in full and returned to the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce by 3 PM on April 5, 2024, before students will be considered for the program.

**PROGRAM CALENDAR**

*(Dates may change when school district testing calendars become available.)*

<b>September 3, 2024</b>	OPENING RECEPTION	5:30 PM – 6:30 PM
<b>September 10, 2024</b>	LEADERSHIP FORUM	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
<b>September 19-22, 2024</b>	<b>Texas State Forest Festival</b>	
<b>October 2, 2024</b>	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
<b>November 6, 2024</b>	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
<b>December 4, 2024</b>	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
<b>January 15, 2025</b>	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM—3:00 PM
<b>January 30, 2025</b>	CHAMBER BANQUET	5:00 PM -- 9:00 PM
<b>February 5, 2025</b>	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
<b>March 4, 2025</b>	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
	<b>THIS SESSION IS ONE DAY EARLY DUE TO SAT TESTING ON THE 5<sup>TH</sup></b>	
<b>April 2, 2025</b>	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
<b>April 15, 2025</b>	GRADUATION	5:30 PM – 6:30 PM



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## Organizations and Activities

Please list in order of importance to your school, volunteer, religious, social, athletic or other activities or organizations in which you have participated during the last four years (additional sheets may be included).

<b>Organizations/Activities</b>	<b>What was your involvement?</b>	<b>What grade were you in?</b>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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## Work Experience

List any part-time job experience, paid or volunteer, and briefly tell what it involved.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you currently have a part-time job? \_\_\_\_\_ How many hours per week? \_\_\_\_\_

Would your job interfere with your attendance at Leadership Tomorrow? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Concurrent College Classes

*We cannot confirm acceptance into the program without this information.*

Do you plan to take any concurrent college classes during your junior year in high school?  
\_\_\_ Yes     \_\_\_ No

Would any of your concurrent classes interfere with the Leadership Tomorrow schedule?  
\_\_\_ Yes     \_\_\_ No

Please list any conflicting classes on Leadership Tomorrow Wednesdays and the time of class.

<b><u>Classes Applicant Will Be Taking</u></b>	<b><u>Starting and Ending Time</u></b>	<b><u>Day(s) of the Week</u></b>
_____	_____ - _____	_____
_____	_____ - _____	_____

**Note:** Outside courses with conflicting schedules could affect eligibility in Leadership Tomorrow.

## Transportation

1. All sessions will begin and end at The Lufkin/ Angelina County Chamber of Commerce. Do you have transportation to and from?

\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_ No

2. Do you have a driver's license?            \_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No
- 

## General Information (additional papers may be included)

1. What three things concern you most about life in Angelina County?

a) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What do you consider your primary strengths and talents?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What do you consider your primary weaknesses?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why do you want to participate in Leadership Tomorrow?

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

5. What would you like to gain from being in the Leadership Tomorrow program?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Why should you be selected to be in the Leadership Tomorrow program?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. What career path have you selected? \_\_\_\_\_

Don't know yet.

8. What else would you like to tell us about yourself?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Essay**

**Please attach your response to the following by typing no more than one page.**

***Referring to Question #1, select one of the three concerns you listed. Discuss the issue and explain how you could make the issue better or correct the issue in our community.***

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## Attendance

**100% attendance is expected of each participant**, and school attendance credit will be granted for each Leadership Tomorrow session attended. If selected, do you commit to attending each one of the program sessions and complete the volunteer requirements?

\_\_\_\_ **Yes**

\_\_\_\_ **No**

**Printed Name of Applicant** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Applicant** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Parental Permission and Waiver of Injury

By signing this application, both the parent/guardian and the participant know that certain risks may result as a part of this program. I release the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce, and any other involved parties and their staff, representatives, and volunteers from all liability for any injury that may occur while participating in the Leadership Tomorrow Program.

I am also giving my permission for my son/daughter to participate in the Leadership Tomorrow program.

**Printed Name of Parent** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

## Reference Information

A minimum of two (2) References are required. A third (3<sup>rd</sup>) one may be needed. See below.

### Reference from High School Principal or Counselor

- Please have your high school principal or counselor complete the enclosed Reference Form. If you are a home school student, please have an adult complete the Reference Form that:
  - Knows you well.
  - Is not related.
  - Does not live with you.

*This information is confidential and should be sent directly to Shameka Stewart at the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce by the principal or counselor. [SStewart@LufkinTexas.org](mailto:SStewart@LufkinTexas.org) or mail to 1615 S. Chestnut, Lufkin, Texas 75901.*

### Reference from Corporate Sponsor

- Please have your corporate sponsor complete the enclosed Corporate Sponsor Reference Form.
  - **If your corporate sponsor does not know you OR is your parent**, please make sure
    - You or your sponsor note that on the Reference Form  
and
    - **Provide an additional letter of reference from an adult who is not related to you but knows you.** This should **not** be your principal or counselor. Be sure they include why you are a good candidate for the program.
  - **If your parent is employed by your corporate sponsor**, your parent should **not** be the person completing the Reference Form.

*This information is confidential and can be mailed, emailed, or delivered to Shameka Stewart at the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce by the corporate sponsor. [SStewart@LufkinTexas.org](mailto:SStewart@LufkinTexas.org) or 1615 S. Chestnut, Lufkin, Texas 75901.*

**SCHOOL REFERENCE FORM #1**

**NEXT 2 PAGES  
TO BE COMPLETED BY PRINCIPAL OR COUNSELOR**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**STUDENT:** Please complete the waiver at the top of page 14 and provide pages 14 and 15 to the principal or counselor for completion.

**PRINCIPAL OR COUNSELOR:** Please return the reference to:

Shameka Stewart  
C/O The Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce  
1615 S. Chestnut  
Lufkin, TX 75901

Or email the form to [SStewart@LufkinTexas.org](mailto:SStewart@LufkinTexas.org)

**TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT**

**TO THE APPLICANT:** PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

STUDENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

The Leadership Tomorrow Committee must receive this completed form by **April 5, 2024**. Be sure to give it to your high school principal or counselor as soon as you receive this application. The comments will be used for selection purposes. Please sign and date the waiver below:

Waiver of Access: I, the undersigned, waive the right of personal access to this reference.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**TO BE COMPLETED BY PRINCIPAL OR COUNSELOR**

**TO THE PRINCIPAL OR COUNSELOR:**

The person named above is an applicant for Leadership Tomorrow. The selection committee attaches considerable weight to the statements made by the references of the applicant. The committee is aware of the time necessary to prepare such an assessment and gratefully acknowledges your help.

Please return this form no later than **April 5, 2024**, to: **Leadership Tomorrow, Attn: Shameka Stewart**  
Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce  
1615 South Chestnut Street  
Lufkin, Texas 75901

Name of Principal or Counselor Providing Reference \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**(Attach additional pages, if needed.)**

**For how long and in what capacity have you known the student (applicant)?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What do you consider the applicant's primary talents or strengths?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What do you consider the applicant's chief weaknesses?**

**PRINCIPAL OR COUNSELOR REFERENCE FORM #1  
CONT'D**

Do you feel that this student needs this program and if so, why?

Comment on the applicant's relationships with his/her peers.

Applicant's grade point average is \_\_\_\_\_ on a \_\_\_\_\_ scale.

Please use the scale below to compare applicant with other high school juniors you have known.

	Exceptional	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unable to Judge
Character						
Concern for others						
Responsibility						
Leadership						
Curiosity						
Ability to work with others						
Maturity						
Poise						
Oral Communication Skills						
Persistence & Drive						
Interest in community						
Analytical ability						

Please comment generally on the applicant's ability to communicate with others, his/her behavior in a group setting (participant or observer), interest in community affairs and potential for becoming a community leader.

**Note:** This signature verifies your approval for the applicant to attend all sessions of Leadership Tomorrow

Signature of Principal \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## SPONSOR REFERENCE FORM #2

NEXT 2 PAGES  
TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CORPORATE SPONSOR

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

**STUDENT:** Will need to complete the waiver at the top of the next page (17) and provide the two pages, 17 and 18, to his/her corporate sponsor, regardless of whether the sponsor knows the applicant.

**Corporate Sponsor:** The letter of reference should include why the student is a good candidate for the Leadership Tomorrow program.

If the corporate sponsor (1) does not know the applicant or (2) is a parent of the applicant, the student will need to provide a letter of reference from a non-related adult who knows the student well. This should not be the school principal or counselor.

**Please return the reference to:**

Shameka Stewart  
Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce  
1615 S. Chestnut  
Lufkin, TX 75901

[SStewart@LufkinTexas.org](mailto:SStewart@LufkinTexas.org)

**CORPORATE SPONSOR REFERENCE FORM  
TO BE COMPLETED BY CORPORATE SPONSORS**

**TO THE APPLICANT - PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT**

STUDENT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT'S SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

The Leadership Tomorrow Committee must receive this completed form by **April 5, 2024**. Be sure to give the form to the corporate sponsor as soon as possible. The comments will be used for selection purposes only. Please sign and date the waiver below.

Waiver of access: I, the undersigned, waive the right of personal access to the reference.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**TO THE CORPORATE SPONSOR:**

**Thank you for your sponsorship!**

The person named above is an applicant for Leadership Tomorrow. The selection committee attaches considerable weight to the statements made by the references of the applicant. The committee is aware of the time necessary to prepare such an assessment and gratefully acknowledges your help.

Please return this form no later than **April 5, 2024**, to:

**Leadership Tomorrow, Attn: Shameka Stewart**  
1615 South Chestnut Street  
Lufkin, Texas 75901

**If this applicant is accepted into the Leadership Tomorrow Program, you will be invoiced for the \$300 sponsor fee. Please complete the following. PLEASE DO NOT PAY IN ADVANCE.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Reference/Corporate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you know the applicant? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No**

If yes, please continue. If no, this completes the Corporate Sponsor section--do not proceed.

Are you the applicant's parent? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

If yes, the corporate sponsor section is complete--do not proceed.

How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

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How does the applicant show interest in what's happening in his/her community?

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Please use the scale below to compare applicant with other high school juniors you have known:

	Exceptional	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unable to Judge
Character						
Maturity						
Poise						
Oral Communication Skills						
Interest in Community						

Why is this student a good candidate for the program?

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Please comment generally on the applicant's attitude regarding his community and school, and provide any additional information that you would like for us to know about the applicant.

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--END OF CORPORATE SPONSOR REFERENCE--

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY NOTIFICATION**

*(Please have each of your extra-curricular activity leaders sign below that they are informed of your Leadership Tomorrow schedule and provide them with a copy, so they have the dates for future reference.)*

I am aware that \_\_\_\_\_ (student's name) will be participating in the Leadership Tomorrow program for 2024-2025 and will be attending Leadership Tomorrow sessions/activities on the days and times provided below:

<b>September 3, 2024</b>	OPENING RECEPTION	5:30 PM – 6:30 PM
<b>September 10, 2024</b>	LEADERSHIP FORUM	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
<b>September 19-22, 2024</b>	<b>Texas State Forest Festival</b>	
<b>October 2, 2024</b>	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
<b>November 6, 2024</b>	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
<b>December 4, 2024</b>	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
<b>January 15, 2025</b>	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM—3:00 PM
<b>January 30, 2025</b>	CHAMBER BANQUET	5:00 PM -- 9:00 PM
<b>February 5, 2025</b>	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
<b>March 4, 2025</b>	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
	<b>THIS SESSION IS ONE DAY EARLY DUE TO SAT TESTING ON THE 5<sup>TH</sup></b>	
<b>April 2, 2025</b>	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
<b>April 15, 2025</b>	GRADUATION	5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

**Thank you for your cooperation with this schedule and absences on these dates!**

**SIGNATURE OF EACH**

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR LEADER**

**DATE SIGNED/NOTIFIED**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

<b>PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM FOR PUBLICITY PURPOSES</b>
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**Select one of the following options**

\_\_\_ I hereby grant full permission to Leadership Tomorrow to use my photo and information from the Leadership Tomorrow application in any publication or advertising materials (printed or electronic). This consent also serves to waive all rights of privacy or compensation that I may have in connection with the use of my photograph or profile information.

\_\_\_ Please do not use my photograph in any publication or advertising materials.

\_\_\_ Please do not use my profile information from the Leadership Tomorrow application in any publication or advertising materials.

<b>Participant (Print)</b>	<b>Participant's (Signature)</b>	<b>Date</b>
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<b>Parent or Guardian (Print)</b>	<b>Parent or Guardian (Signature)</b>	<b>Date</b>
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<b>Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>
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**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_



**LEADERSHIP TOMORROW TRANSPORTATION  
LIABILITY RELEASE FORM**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am voluntarily riding to and from sessions of Leadership Tomorrow, in vehicles or buses, either rented or provided on a pro bono basis to benefit the Leadership Tomorrow program and the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce, as well as benefiting me as a member of the 2024-2025 class of Leadership Tomorrow.

I realize that travel in these vehicles is a risk, just as any travel in any vehicle is a risk when I am driving or anyone else is driving, and that road conditions, weather conditions, and the actions of other drivers will influence the safety conditions of travel.

I hereby release the drivers and providers of the vehicles, whether owned or rented/leased, all participants in Leadership Tomorrow and their employers; all representatives of Leadership Tomorrow and the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce and their employees; from any liability from any injuries that may be associated with driving to and from Leadership Tomorrow activities.

Signed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

Participant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

## APPLICATION CHECK LIST

### **Keep this page to make sure you have completed your application.**

- Check your calendar and talk with your family to be sure that you will be in town and available to attend all sessions as listed in the PROGRAM CALENDAR. **100% attendance is expected at all sessions.**
- Fill out the **student section** of the application form completely and return it to the Lufkin/Angelina Chamber of Commerce by **April 5, 2024.**
- Ask your **principal or counselor** to complete the reference form and return it to you in a sealed envelope or mail the reference to the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce office before **April 5, 2024.**
- Secure a **corporate sponsor**. This can be any businessperson or individual that will pay the fee. Provide a copy of the reference form to your corporate sponsor; ask them to return it to the Chamber office no later than **April 5, 2024.**
- Secure a signature of the coach, leader, sponsor, or teacher who oversees each of your **extracurricular activities** that might conflict with the Leadership Tomorrow schedule. Turn this page back in with your application. Be sure to make copies for each leader of your activities so they have a copy of your schedule.
- Complete both **waivers** at the end of the application.

- 
- All six sections of the application must be completed and turned in by April 5, 2024. Incomplete applications will immediately be ineligible for selection.**