

## Celebrating 34 Years Strong!

# APPLICATION PACKAGE For 2025-2026

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#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Applications will be reviewed in confidence.

The deadline for applying is May 1, 2025

### **Return Application to Leadership Tomorrow**

c/o Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce 1615 South Chestnut Street • Lufkin, Texas 75901 Attn: Tara Watkins

Applicants will be notified in writing of their acceptance. into the program by **July 18<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 teenagers with 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 must use transportation provided by the program (school buses) and cannot 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 when 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 he/she is interested in learning how to lead and willing to develop his/her potential.
- Be available to attend all sessions. If a conflict should arise after submitting the
  application, please get in touch with 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 program's cost.
- Must secure a corporate sponsor to pay \$300 (non-refundable) to help cover the program's cost.

#### TO APPLY:

#### Applicant must:

- a. Check your calendar and talk with your family to ensure you will be in town and available to attend all sessions as listed in the PROGRAM CALENDAR.
   Attendance is expected at all sessions and added events on the schedule. You can miss up to four session hours without having to make up time.
- 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 and ask him or her to return it to Tara Watkins, President/ CEO of 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 a \$100 non-refundable entry fee upon notification of student selection/acceptance. DO NOT ENCLOSE THE FEE WITH THE 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 **4 PM on May 1, 2025**
- 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 Tara Watkins at the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce.

#### Corporate sponsor must:

- a. Complete the reference form and 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 be accepted on 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 18.
- Class size will be limited to approximately 25 students.

#### COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER PROJECTS—THESE ARE MANDATORY

- September 18-21, 2025 Texas State Forest Festival
  - o Participants must complete 6 hours of volunteer service at the Texas State Forest Festival.
- January 22, 2026 THE 106<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.

The following application must be completed <u>in full</u> and returned to the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce by 4 <u>PM on May 1, 2025</u> before students will be considered for the program.

## PROGRAM CALENDAR

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

September 2, 2025	OPENING RECEPTION	5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
September 10, 2025	LEADERSHIP FORUM	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
September 18-21, 2025	Texas State Forest Festival	
October 1, 2025	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
November 5, 2025	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
December 3, 2025	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
January 14, 2026	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM—3:00 PM
January 22, 2026	CHAMBER BANQUET	5:00 PM 9:00 PM
February 4, 2026	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
March 4, 2026 THIS	REGULAR SESSION DAY SESSION MAY MOVE DUE TO T	
April 1, 2026	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
April 13, 2026	GRADUATION	5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

## APPLICATION FORM TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT

### (Please type or print in ink—do NOT use pencil)

Personal Information			
Student's Name			
First	 Middle	Las	<u> </u>
Name you prefer to be call	led		
Unisex T-Shirt Size	Birth date	Ger	nder
School			
Home Mailing Address		City	Zip Code
Home Phone			
School Phone			
Cell Phone	**Email address logib	Address	datory for communication
(riedse pi		y.) Email is man	datory for confinding anoth
EMERGENCY INFORMATION	N		
Emergency Contact		Relationship to Applic	ant:
Emergency Area Code & Pho	ne Number		
	-		
School Information			
Main area of interest in stud	dies:		
List any special awards, hor activities that you received (additional paper may be i	I from the 7th through		or community-related

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

Organizations/Activities	What was your involvement?	What grade were you in?
Work Experience		
List any part-time job experience	e, paid or volunteer, and briefly t	tell what it involved.
Do you currently have a part-tin	ne job? How many ho	urs per week?
Would your job interfere with yo	ur attendance at Leadership Tor	morrow?
Concurrent College Classes		
•	to the program without this informa	tion.
Do you plan to take any concu	rrent college classes during your	junior year in high school?
Would any of your concurrent o	lasses interfere with the Leadersh	nip Tomorrow schedule?
Yes No		
Please list any conflicting classes or	n Leadership Tomorrow Wednesday	s and the time of class.
Classes Applicant Will Be Taki	ng Starting and Ending Tir	me Day(s) of the Week
	<del>-</del>	

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

Tran	sn	ort	ati	on
пи	"	~11	мп	~11

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?	

	Why do you want to participate in Leadership Tomorrow?
	a)
	b)
	c)
•	What would you like to gain from being in the Leadership Tomorrow program?
	Why should you be selected to be in the Leadership Tomorrow program?
	What agrees we the house you sale at a d?
•	What career path have you selected? Don't know yet.
•	What else would you like to tell us about yourself?

Ess

<u>Ple</u>

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

#### **Attendance**

Each participant is expected to attend 100% of the program sessions, and school	
attendance credit will be granted for each Leadership Tomorrow session attended. It	f
selected, will you commit to attending each one and completing the volunteer	
requirements?	

Printed Name of Applicant  Signature of Applicant  Date		Yes	No	
	Printed Name of Applicant			
Date	Signature of Applicant			
	Date			

### Parental Permission and Waiver of Injury

By signing this application, both the parent/guardian and the participant know that certain risks may result from participating in this program. I release the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce, 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. See below.

#### Reference from High School Principal or Counselor

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

This information is confidential and should be sent directly to Tara Watkins at the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce by the principal or counselor. <a href="mailto:TWatkins@LufkinTexas.org">TWatkins@LufkinTexas.org</a> or mail to 1615 S. Chestnut, Lufkin, Texas 75901.

#### **Reference from Corporate Sponsor**

- Please have your <u>corporate sponsor</u> 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 reference letter from an adult who is not related to you but knows you. This should <u>not</u> be your principal or counselor. Be sure they include why you are a good candidate for the program.
  - If your corporate sponsor employs your parent, your parent should <u>not</u> be the person completing the Reference Form.

This information is confidential and can be mailed, emailed, or delivered to Tara Watkins at the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce by the corporate sponsor. TWatkins@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 14-16 to the principal or counselor for completion.

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

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

Or email the form to <a href="mailto:TWatkins@LufkinTexas.org">TWatkins@LufkinTexas.org</a>

## TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT

TO THE APPLICANT: PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT		
STUDENT'S NAME:		
	receive	completed form by <b>May 1, 2025.</b> Be sure to give it to e this application. The comments will be used for slow:
Waiver of Access: I, the undersigned, waive this	referen	ce's right to personal access.
Signature		Date
TO BE COMPLETED	BY PR	RINCIPAL OR COUNSELOR
TO THE PRINCIPAL OR COUNSELOR:		
The person named above is an applicant for Lea considerable weight to the statements made by the time necessary to prepare such an assessme	the refe	erences of the applicant. The committee is aware of
Please return this form no later than <b>May 1, 2025</b> ,	to:	Leadership Tomorrow, Attn: Tara Watkins Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce 1615 South Chestnut Street Lufkin, Texas 75901
Name of Principal or Counselor Providing Referen	nce	
Position/Title		School
Mailing Address	City_	Zip Code
Phone	Email A	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?			
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.			

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

rease comment generally on the applicant's ability to communicate with others, his/her behavior in a generally on the applicant's ability to communicate with others, his/her behavior in a generally on the applicant's ability to communicate with others, his/her behavior in a generally on the applicant's ability to communicate with others, his/her behavior in a generally on the applicant's ability to communicate with others, his/her behavior in a general part of the applicant's ability to communicate with others, his/her behavior in a general part of the applicant's ability to communicate with others, his/her behavior in a general part of the applicant's ability to communicate with others, his/her behavior in a general part of the applicant's ability to community affairs, and potential for becoming a community affairs.				
<u>Note</u> : This signature verifies your approva Tomorrow	I for the applicant to attend all sessions of Leadership			
Signature of Principal	Date			

#### **SPONSOR REFERENCE FORM #2**

## NEXT 2 PAGES TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CORPORATE SPONSOR

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

**STUDENT:** The student will need to complete the waiver at the top of page 18 and provide the two pages, 18/19, to his/her corporate sponsor, regardless of whether the sponsor knows the applicant.

<u>Corporate Sponsor:</u> The reference letter should include why the student is a good candidate for the Leadership Tomorrow program.

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

#### Please return the reference to:

Tara Watkins
Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce
1615 S. Chestnut
Lufkin, TX 75901

TWatkins@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 the form to the corporate sponsor as soon as possible. The Please sign and date the waiver below.	nis completed form by <b>May 1, 2025</b> . Be sure to give the ne comments will be used for selection purposes only.
Waiver of access: I, the undersigned, waive the right	of personal access to the reference.
Student's Signature:	Date
TO THE CORPORATE SPONSOR:	Thank you for your sponsorship!
	eadership Tomorrow. The selection committee attaches ne applicant's references. The committee knows the time fully acknowledges your help.
Please return this form no later than <b>May 1, 2025</b> , to	Leadership Tomorrow, Attn: Tara Watkins 1615 South Chestnut Street Lufkin, Texas 75901
If this applicant is accepted into the Leaders the \$300 sponsor fee. Please complete the f	chip Tomorrow Program, you will be invoiced for ollowing. 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 If yes, please continue. If no, this completes the  Are you the applicant's parent?Yes	Corporate Sponsor sectiondo not proceed.
If yes, the corporate sponsor section is complete	

show interest	in what's ha	ppening in h	is/her commun	ity?	
ow to compar	e applicant	with other hig	gh school junior	s you have k	nown:
·				•	
Exceptional	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unable to Judge
a good candi	idate for the	program?			
				••	
onal informati	on that you	would like for	us to know abo	out the applic	cant.
	enerally on th	enerally on the applicant	enerally on the applicant's attitude reg	ow to compare applicant with other high school junior  Exceptional Excellent Good Average  a good candidate for the program?  enerally on the applicant's attitude regarding his com	

-- END OF CORPORATE SPONSOR REFERENCE—

### EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY NOTIFICATION

(Please have each extra-curricular activity leader sign below that they are informed of your Leadership Tomorrow schedule. 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 2025-2026 and will be attending Leadership Tomorrow sessions/activities on the days and times provided below:					
September 2, 2025	OPENING RECEPTION	5:30 PM - 6:30 PM			
September 10, 2025	LEADERSHIP FORUM	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM			
September 18-21, 2025	Texas State Forest Festival				
October 1, 2025	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM			
November 5, 2025	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM			
December 3, 2025	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM			
January 14, 2026	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM—3:00 PM			
January 26, 2026	CHAMBER BANQUET	5:00 PM 9:00 PM			
February 4, 2026	REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM			
March 4, 2026	REGULAR SESSION DAY				
April 1, 2026	SION MAY CHANGE DUE TO REGULAR SESSION DAY	8:00 AM – 3:00 PM			
April 13, 2026	GRADUATION	5:30 PM - 6:30 PM			
Thank you for your cooperation SIGNATURE OF EACH EXTRA-CURRICULAR LEADER	on with this schedule and absence  DATE SICE	es on these dates!  GNED/NOTIFIED			

## PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM FOR PUBLICITY PURPOSES

## Select one of the following options

I hereby grant full pe	•		
photo and information from any publication or adver	•		
consent also serves to wo	aive all rights of priv	acy or com	npensation
that I may have in conne profile information.	ection with the use	of my photo	ograph or
·			
Please do not use my advertising materials.	y photograph in ar	ny publication	on or
Please do not use my	•		•
Tomorrow application in a	any publication or	advertising	materials.
Participant (Print)	Participant's (Sigi	nature)	Date
Parent or Guardian (Print)	Parent or Guardian (Signature)		Date
Address	City	State	Zip Code
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 2025-2026 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:
Thined raine of falent of Godialant,

### 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. <b>100% attendance is expected at all sessions.</b>
Fill out the <b>student section</b> of the application form completely and return it to the Lufkin/Angelina Chamber of Commerce by <b>May 1, 2025.</b>
Ask your <b>principal or counselor</b> 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 <b>May 1, 2025</b> .
Secure a <b>corporate sponsor</b> . 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 <b>May 1, 2025</b> .
Secure a signature of the coach, leader, sponsor, or teacher who oversees each of your <b>extracurricular activities</b> 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 <b>waivers</b> at the end of the application.
All six application sections must be completed and turned in by May 1, 2025. Incomplete applications will <u>immediately be ineligible</u> for selection.