



**LEADERSHIP
TOMORROW**
A Program of the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber

2026-2027 APPLICATION

Application Deadline: May 4, 2026 | 5 PM

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

WHAT IS LEADERSHIP TOMORROW?

Leadership Tomorrow was created specifically for high school juniors and is organized by the Chamber. The program is designed to mirror the Leadership Lufkin program.

Students in the program have the opportunity to learn about Angelina County firsthand, to explore opportunities that exist for their futures in this area, and to give back to the community through community volunteer service.

PROGRAM COMMITMENT

- Welcome Reception in August
- Monthly sessions: September - April
- Community training and team building
- Have transportation to and from the sessions on the dates indicated
- During session days, transportation and lunch are provided

COSTS

- Student fee: \$100
- Corporate sponsor fee: \$300

IMPORTANT DATES

- Application deadline: May 4, 2026
- Phase 2 Invitation: June 5, 2026
- Interviews: June 15 - 17, 2026
- Acceptance notice: By July 20, 2026

PROGRAM DETAILS

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 comes up after submitting your application, please reach out to the Leadership Programs Coordinator right away.
- 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.

PROGRAM DETAILS

ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

Because Leadership Tomorrow is an interactive leadership experience, full participation is essential.

Participants are expected to:

- Attend all scheduled sessions, events, and required volunteer projects
- Arrive on time and remain for the full duration of each session
- Communicate immediately with the Leadership Programs Coordinator if an unavoidable conflict arises

Students may miss up to four total session hours without required make-up time.

Additional absences may impact program completion or graduation recognition.

School attendance credit is granted for each Leadership Tomorrow session.

By applying to Leadership Tomorrow, students and parents acknowledge and commit to meeting these attendance expectations.

HOW TO APPLY

APPLICANT MUST:

1. 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.**
2. Have your parent or legal guardian sign the application for parental permission.
3. Ask your principal or counselor to complete the enclosed reference form and return it to the Chamber of Commerce office.
4. 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 Madi Stott, Leadership Programs Coordinator of the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce. If your sponsor does not know you, refer to the instructions in the application.
5. Students who have exhausted avenues for acquiring a sponsor may apply for assistance and attach the request behind the application.
6. 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.*
7. Complete all consent forms attached to the application.
8. Provide a Leadership Tomorrow schedule to all extra-curricular activity leaders.
9. Fill out the application form completely and return it to the Lufkin/Angelina Chamber of Commerce by 5:00 PM on Monday, May 4, 2026.
10. Only complete applications, accompanied by the two or three required reference forms, will be considered.

PRINCIPAL OR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR MUST:

1. Complete the reference form, including signature and date.
2. Return the reference to Madi Stott at the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce.

CORPORATE SPONSOR MUST:

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

SELECTION PROCESS

PHASE 1: Blind Application Review

After applications are submitted, all identifying information related to the student, parent or guardian, school, and sponsor is removed.

Applications are reviewed anonymously by the Leadership Tomorrow Selection Committee and evaluated on merit using:

- Responses in the written application
- Alignment with the mission and objectives of Leadership Tomorrow
- Submitted reference forms

Based on Phase 1 scoring, a select group of applicants will be invited to advance to

Phase 2: The Interview Stage.

Not all applicants will move forward.

PHASE 2: Interview & Final Selection

Selected applicants will participate in an **in-person interview** held from **June 15 - 17, 2026**.

Invitations will be sent out to applicants on June 5, 2026.

Interviews are designed to assess:

- Communication skills
- Leadership potential
- Readiness and commitment to the program

Final selection decisions are based on a combination of:

- Phase 1 written application and references
- Phase 2 interview performance

All application materials, references, and interview discussions remain confidential and are reviewed only by the Leadership Tomorrow Selection Committee.

Applicants will be notified in writing of their final status **by July 18**.

Class size is limited to **approximately 25-30 students**.

PROGRAM CALENDAR

Community Volunteer Projects – **THESE ARE MANDATORY**

- **September - Texas State Forest Festival**
 - Participants are required to complete 6 hours of volunteer service at the 43rd Annual Texas State Forest Festival.
- **January - The 107th Annual Chamber Banquet**
 - 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.

2026 - 2027 CALENDAR

September 1, 2026	Opening Reception	5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
September 9, 2026	Session #1	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
September 17-20, 2026	Texas State Forest Festival	Volunteering
October 14, 2026	Session #2	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
November 4, 2026	Session #3	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
December 2, 2026	Session #4	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
January 13, 2027	Session #5	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
January 28, 2027	Chamber Banquet	5:00 PM - 9:00 PM
February 3, 2027	Session #6	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
March 17, 2027	Session #7	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
April 7, 2027	Session #8	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
April 13, 2027	Graduation	5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

PHASE 1: APPLICATION

(To be completed by the student. Please type or print in ink. Do not use pencil.)

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Student's Legal Full Name: _____

Name you prefer to be called: _____

Unisex t-shirt size: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____

School: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

_____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

*** Email is mandatory for communication. Do NOT use school email. Please print email address legibly.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Emergency Contact #1: _____

Relationship: _____ Phone: _____

Emergency Contact #2: _____

Relationship: _____ Phone: _____

PHASE 1: APPLICATION

(To be completed by the student. Please type or print in ink. Do not use pencil.)

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Main area(s) of academic interests: _____

List any special awards, honors, or recognitions you have received (academic, school, or community-related) from grades 7-10. Additional pages may be attached if needed.

ORGANIZATIONS & ACTIVITIES

List activities or organizations you have participated in during the last four years, in order of importance. Include school, volunteer, athletic, employment, and/or community involvement. Additional pages may be attached if needed.

Organization / Activity

Role / Involvement

Grade(s)

PHASE 1: APPLICATION

(To be completed by the student. Please type or print in ink. Do not use pencil.)

WORK EXPERIENCE

List any part-time jobs or volunteer work and briefly describe your responsibilities.

Do you currently have a part-time job? Yes _____ No _____ If yes, average hours per week: _____

Would your job interfere with attendance at Leadership Tomorrow sessions and events? Yes _____ No _____

CONCURRENT COLLEGE CLASSES

Do you plan to take any concurrent college classes during your Junior year? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, would any classes interfere with the Leadership Tomorrow program schedule? Yes _____ No _____

If applicable, list conflicting classes below:

Course Name	Start Time	End Time	Day(s)
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**Note: Outside courses with conflicting schedules may affect eligibility

TRANSPORTATION

All sessions will begin and end at the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce.

Do you have transportation to and from all sessions? Yes _____ No _____

Do you have a driver's license? Yes _____ No _____

PHASE 1: APPLICATION

(To be completed by the student. Please type or print in ink. Do not use pencil.)

SHORT RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Please respond briefly (2-3 sentences per question). Additional pages may be attached.

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

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

3. What do you consider are your primary weaknesses?

4. What interests you most about Leadership Tomorrow?

5. What is one skill or quality you would like to strengthen through this program?

PHASE 1: APPLICATION

(To be completed by the student. Please type or print in ink. Do not use pencil.)

SHORT RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Please respond briefly (2-3 sentences per question). Additional pages may be attached.

6. Describe one activity, responsibility, or experience where you demonstrated initiative or leadership.

7. What commitment or responsibility are you most proud of managing?

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

9. What career path have you selected? _____

_____ Don't know yet

10. Please share any other additional information about yourself that you would like the Leadership Tomorrow Selection Committee to know.

Once all applications have been evaluated by the Leadership Tomorrow Selection Committee, a select group of applicants will be invited to advance to Phase 2. Selected applicants will be notified by June 5th and interviews will be conducted on June 15th - 17th, 2026.

CONSENT FORMS

(To be completed by the student and parent/guardian.)

PARENTAL PERMISSION & 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/Guardian: _____

Parent's/Guardian's Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

MEDIA & PUBLICITY CONSENT *(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.

Printed Name of Student: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

CONSENT FORMS

(To be completed by the student and parent/guardian.)

TRANSPORTATION LIABILITY RELEASE

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.

Printed Name of Student: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

EXTRACURRICULAR

Leadership Tomorrow | 2026-2027

NOTICE TO EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES LEADERS

Please have each extra-curricular leader/coach sign below that they are informed of your Leadership Tomorrow schedule. Provide them each with a printed copy so they have the dates for future reference and can plan accordingly for your absence.

I am aware that _____ (student's name) will be participating in the Leadership Tomorrow program during the 26-27 school year and will attend all required sessions/events on the days and at the times provided below.

2026 - 2027 CALENDAR

September 1, 2026	Opening Reception	5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
September 9, 2026	Session #1	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
September 17-20, 2026	Texas State Forest Festival	Volunteering
October 14, 2026	Session #2	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
November 4, 2026	Session #3	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
December 2, 2026	Session #4	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
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January 28, 2027	Chamber Banquet	5:00 PM - 9:00 PM
February 3, 2027	Session #6	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
March 17, 2027	Session #7	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
April 7, 2027	Session #8	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
April 13, 2027	Graduation	5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

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

Activity	Name of EACH Extracurricular Leader	Signature	Date Signed/Notified
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

REFERENCES

REFERENCE OVERVIEW

To be considered for Leadership Tomorrow, each applicant must submit the required reference forms listed below. All references are confidential and must be returned directly to the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce by the reference provider.

Reference Requirements

Applicants must submit:

- One School Reference completed by a high school principal or counselor
- One Corporate Sponsor Reference completed by the student's corporate sponsor

Additional Reference (if needed)

An additional adult reference is required if:

- The corporate sponsor does not personally know the applicant, or
- The corporate sponsor is the applicant's parent

The additional reference must:

- Be an adult not related to the student
- Not be a principal, counselor, or teacher
- Include a brief statement explaining why the student is a strong candidate

Submission Instructions

All reference forms must be received by **5:00 PM on Monday, May 4, 2026**

References may be submitted by: Email: MStott@LufkinTexas.org

Mail: Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce
Attn: Madi Stott
1615 S. Chestnut St.
Lufkin, TX 75901

Incomplete applications or missing references cannot be considered.

SCHOOL REFERENCE

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENT

- Complete the student information section below.
- Sign the Waiver of Access.
- Provide this form to your high school principal or counselor.
- The completed form must be returned directly to the Chamber by the reference provider.

Deadline: 5:00 PM on Monday, May 4, 2026

Return by email or mail: Email: MStott@LufkinTexas.org

Mail: Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce
 Attn: Madi Stott
 1615 S. Chestnut St.
 Lufkin, TX 75901

STUDENT INFORMATION *(to be completed by student)*

Printed Student's Name: _____

Waiver of Access: I waive my right to review this confidential reference.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

PRINCIPAL OR COUNSELOR *(to be completed by Principal or Counselor)*

The person named above is an applicant for the 2026 - 2027 Leadership Tomorrow program. Your honest assessment helps identify students with strong leadership potential and commitment to community.

Name: _____

Title/Position: _____

School: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Mailing Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

SCHOOL REFERENCE

(To be completed by the student. Please type or print in ink. Do not use pencil.)

SHORT RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Please respond briefly (2-3 sentences per question). Additional pages may be attached.

1. For how long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

2. What do you consider to be the applicant's primary strengths and weaknesses?

3. Do you feel that this applicant would benefit from the Leadership Tomorrow program and how so?

4. Comment on the applicant's relationship with their peers.

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

SCHOOL REFERENCE

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ACADEMIC INFORMATION

GPA: _____ on a _____ scale

STUDENT EVALUATION

Compared with other high school juniors you have known:

Trait	Exceptional	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unable to Judge
Character	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Responsibility	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Maturity	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Works Well with Others	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Communication Skills	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Initiative and Drive	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Interest in Community	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Note: This signature verifies your approval for the applicant to attend all Leadership Tomorrow sessions and events.

Printed Name of Principal/Counselor: _____

Principal/Counselor Signature: _____ Date: _____

CORPORATE SPONSOR

Leadership Tomorrow | 2026-2027

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING LEADERSHIP TOMORROW

Your sponsorship helps develop future leaders for Angelina County through leadership training, community engagement, and career exploration.

WHAT IS REQUIRED FROM A SPONSOR?

- Complete the Corporate Sponsor Reference Form.
- Return the form directly to the Chamber by: **5:00 PM on Monday, May 4, 2026**
- If the student is accepted, submit the \$300 non-refundable sponsor fee when invoiced.
Do not send payment with the reference form.

WHEN IS AN ADDITIONAL REFERENCE NEEDED?

An extra adult reference is required if:

- The sponsor does not personally know the student, or
- The sponsor is the student's parent or guardian

The additional reference must:

- Be unrelated to the student
- Not be a principal, counselor, or teacher
- Include a short statement supporting the student's leadership potential

HOW TO SUBMIT THE REFERENCE

Return by email or mail: Email: MStott@LufkinTexas.org

Mail: Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce
Attn: Madi Stott
1615 S. Chestnut St.
Lufkin, TX 75901

QUESTIONS?

We are grateful for your investment in student leadership.

For questions, please contact the Chamber at 936-634-6644.

CORPORATE SPONSOR

Leadership Tomorrow | 2026-2027

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENT

- Complete the student information section below and sign the Waiver of Access.
- Provide this form to your corporate sponsor.
- The completed form must be returned directly to the Chamber by the reference provider.

Deadline: 5:00 PM on Monday, May 4, 2026

Return by email or mail: Email: MStott@LufkinTexas.org

Mail: Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce
 Attn: Madi Stott
 1615 S. Chestnut St.
 Lufkin, TX 75901

STUDENT INFORMATION *(to be completed by student)*

Printed Student's Name: _____ High School: _____

Waiver of Access: I waive my right to review this confidential reference.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

CORPORATE SPONSOR *(to be completed by Corporate Sponsor)*

The person named above is an applicant for the 2026 - 2027 Leadership Tomorrow program. Thank you for investing in the next generation of leaders in Angelina County. If this student is accepted, you will be invoiced for the \$300 non-refundable sponsor fee. **Please do not send payment with this form.**

Name: _____

Title/Position: _____

Company: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Mailing Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Sponsor Signature: _____

CORPORATE SPONSOR

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RELATIONSHIP TO STUDENT

Do you personally know the student?

- Yes
- No —→ *If no, this completes the form.*

Are you the student's parent or guardian?

- Yes —→ *If yes, this completes the form.*
- No

1. How long and in what capacity have you known the student?

2. Why is this student a strong candidate for Leadership Tomorrow?

3. Comment on the student's attitude regarding their community and school and provide any additional information that you would like the Leadership Tomorrow Selection Committee to know.

STUDENT EVALUATION

Compared with other high school juniors you have known:

Trait	Exceptional	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unable to Judge
Character	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Responsibility	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Maturity	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Communication Skills	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Interest in Community	<input type="checkbox"/>					

FINAL CHECKLIST

Leadership Tomorrow | 2026-2027

STUDENT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Student application is fully completed
- All short response questions are answered
- Student signature and date are included

PARENT & PARTICIPANT FORMS

- Parent/guardian permission and waiver signed
- Media & publicity consent completed
- Transportation liability release signed

REQUIRED REFERENCES

- School reference completed by principal or counselor
- Corporate sponsor reference submitted
- If applicable: Additional adult reference included (Required if sponsor does not personally know the student)

SPONSORSHIP & PROGRAM COMMITMENT

- Corporate sponsor has agreed to provide \$300 sponsorship if accepted
- Student and family understand \$100 student fee is due after acceptance
- Student confirms availability for all sessions and required events

EXTRACURRICULAR NOTIFICATION

- Student has shared the Leadership Tomorrow schedule with coaches, directors, or activity leaders

SUBMIT TO: Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce
Attn: Madi Stott
1615 S. Chestnut St.
Lufkin, TX 75901
Email: MStott@LufkinTexas.org