

2025-2026 Application Packet



Building Community Excellence One Leader at a Time

- Are you ready for a new professional or personal challenge?
- Is it time to reinvest in yourself?
- Are you hoping to be more involved in the community?

Applicants are reviewed and accepted in order received.

Please note that in recent years, we have maintained a waiting list due to high demand

- This comprehensive program is designed to build community leaders
- The Institute provides participants with a unique opportunity to turn knowledge into action through classroom experiences, hands-on activities, and a variety of assessment tools
- Over the period of nine months, participants will experience 10 days of training and classes
- Each participant will be assigned to a project group, which will assess community needs, determine a project, and facilitate the project by working with other community members and/or groups
- Group work will culminate with a group project presentation at graduation

This program has had the great privilege of providing community information and leadership training to over 800 graduates, for the past 35 years. Each year the program undergoes format and curriculum changes in an effort to improve the quality of the experience and address changes in the business environment.



Building Community Excellence One Leader at a Time

Participation in this program will allow you to:

- Sharpen your leadership skills to grow both personally and professionally
- Build strong, lasting relationships with peers and community leaders
- Create meaningful outcomes that positively impact your team and organization
- Communicate with confidence and clarity across diverse audiences
- Leverage team strengths and diversity to drive collaboration and innovation
- Gain fresh leadership perspectives and develop new competencies
- Engage with influential local leaders and expand your network
- Explore key local issues and challenges impacting our community
- Deepen your understanding of Hutchinson's civic, nonprofit, and business landscape
- Discover opportunities to get involved and make a lasting impact
- Experience Hutchinson in a new way—through the lens of those shaping it
- Collaborate on a group project designed to enhance life in Hutchinson

What Past Participants Are Saying...



- "I have been through many leadership classes in my life and this class far exceeds any and all I have ever participated in."
- "Thank you for this opportunity to grow and meet others that are now like family."
- "This was amazing on all levels!!!! Blown Away!!!!"
- "This program made me realize my potential for growth, both personally and professionally, outside my current circle of influence."
- "Leadership Institute has given me an opportunity to learn some new things about myself and the community, as well as given me a wake-up call on some things I have just taken for granted."
- "The Leadership class means more self confidence in the workplace and my personal life."
- "I enjoyed getting to know my classmates and building relationships."
- "Everyone who lives in Hutchinson should HAVE to take this class. I learned so much more than I imagined."
- "One of the most impactful parts of the Leadership Institute was learning how to truly collaborate. Working with a diverse group of people challenged and strengthened my ability to lead within a team. It's an experience that's made me a better coworker, leader, and community member."



*Applicant General Information*

PRINT OR TYPE CLEARLY

First & Last Name (Preferred Pronouns)

Business / Organization Name & Job Title

Best Email for Communication

Best Phone Number

Unisex t-shirt size

What are three leadership traits you feel you currently possess?

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What are three leadership traits you wish to develop?

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What do you think are the top three issues facing Hutchinson?

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What do you think are three great opportunities Hutchinson has to offer?

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Please share any special needs or circumstances we should be aware of to make your experience as successful as possible:

How did you hear about the Leadership Institute Program? Choose all that apply.

- ☐ Friend(s) ☐ Past Participants ☐ Chamber Newsletter ☐ Design Team Member
☐ Employer ☐ Social Media ☐ Other _____





Commitment and Expectations

Attendance

Participants are expected to attend all sessions. Participants missing more than one session will not receive a completion certificate.

Carefully consider your availability to meet on the dates outlined for the program.

2025-2026 Leadership Program Dates

With some exceptions, classes run from 8:30 AM-4:00 PM, usually on Wednesdays.

- September 25 (Thursday)
- September 26 (Friday)
- October 15
- November 19
- December 17
- January 21
- February 18
- March 18
- April 15
- May 20- Day & Evening Session and Graduation Banquet



Group Projects

In addition to the monthly sessions, you will be part of a community service project group. Time commitment will be determined by a consensus of the members in your small group. There will be time allowed during some monthly sessions for project discussions.

YOUR PERSONAL COMMITMENT

I have read the Hutchinson Leadership Institute materials and have made appropriate arrangements for program time commitments, including adding all dates to my personal and professional calendars. I agree to participate in ALL program sessions.

Printed Name

Signature

Date



*Sponsor Form*

We thank you for your willingness to support a participant in the Hutchinson Leadership Institute. Your role as a sponsor is vital to the success of this program.

Participant Name: _____

Sponsor Name: _____

Business /Organization Name: _____ Job Title: _____

Business Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Best email for communication: _____

About Your Institute Applicant

Why do you feel they would be a good candidate for the class?

What do you hope they will gain from participating in the class?

Tuition= \$600

ALL Tuition MUST BE PAID-IN-FULL by September 1, 2026

Scholarships– Limited program scholarships may be available for approved candidates that demonstrate a clear need for tuition assistance. If accepted into the Hutchinson Leadership Institute, do you wish to apply for tuition assistance? Yes ☐ No ☐

Payment Information:

☐ Included in Chamber membership ☐ Invoice Business

☐ Check Enclosed: Payable to: Hutchinson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Your Sponsor Commitment

I have discussed with the applicant the expectations of time, and the commitment of our organization to support them, allowing them time to be at ALL SESSIONS, September-May. I understand the financial commitment and deadlines associated with payment for this program.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

