



Class of 2026-2027 Program Information

OUR HISTORY:

The Leadership Harrisonburg-Rockingham (LHR) program originally began in 1979 as the Community Leadership Program. Since its inception in 1979, the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce's Community Leadership Program has been a great way to make contacts with other professionals in our area. It is an exceptional resource for building community awareness and enhancing team leadership skills. Over 1,000 individuals have graduated from the program since the inaugural class of 1979-80!

PROGRAM SUMMARY:

Leadership Harrisonburg-Rockingham (LHR) strives to create a lasting impact on Harrisonburg and Rockingham County by developing current and future leaders through community awareness, engagement, and education. The program is designed to expose current and aspiring leaders to the many different aspects of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County; educating them about the community's past, present and future, including our strengths and opportunities that will help us build a better tomorrow. A strong emphasis on leadership development is woven into the program, beginning with a team building session.

Objectives:

1. Educate

Educate participants about the community, leadership, traits and styles, and their own personal potential to become more engaged and influential in determining the community's future.

2. Communicate

Enhance communication skills in the workplace and the community while developing a network among LHR class members, the LHR Committee and instructors, Chamber leadership and the broader reach of the LHR alumni.

3. Build Relationships

Develop relationship-building capacity with each other, facilitators, speakers, the Chamber, and community leaders as well as the opportunity to utilize those relationships for a greater good through a class service project and in the future.

4. Apply Skills Learned

Learn how to apply the skills you have learned to make things happen in your professional and community service (execution focus).

PROGRAM SESSIONS & ATTENDANCE:

The Leadership Harrisonburg-Rockingham program includes ten engaging, leadership focused and community-based meetings over a ten-month period, expecting to begin in August 2026 and end with a Graduation in June 2027 (*session dates may be subject to change due to inclement weather*). The LHR program is overseen by a committee of the LHR alumni and key stakeholders and administered by the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce (HRCC).

Class participants have one official session per month. Each session is on the 2nd Thursday of each month, unless otherwise noted in advance. There will be a sign-in sheet at the beginning of each session and it is the responsibility of the participant to sign-in. The first event is a late afternoon information and welcome orientation and reception. The remaining workshops (8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) are held at different locations throughout the city and county.

The participant may miss one session and still graduate from the program. If the participant would miss a second session, they will be asked to complete a makeup assignment designed to align with session themes and promote Chamber/community engagement. **If the attendance requirements are not met, the participant will not be allowed to complete the program and will not receive a refund of tuition.**

(Welcome Orientation and Graduation are not counted as a missed class, but attendance is strongly encouraged)

Make-Up Requirements:

- One session may be missed without penalty. The second session missed requires a make-up. Otherwise, you can apply for a future class.
- Make up assignments will be coordinated with Alan at alan@hrchamber.org.

Additional Requirements and Expectations

To foster better Chamber and workplace engagement, all participants will be required to do the following:

- Meet with a supervisor or manager following each session to discuss learning outcomes. Suggested talking points will be provided after each session.
- Attend one Chamber event outside of class sessions.

A community service project is a requirement of all program participants. The project offers participants an opportunity to expand their leadership knowledge, perspective, and skills while contributing to the well-being of the community.

LEADERSHIP HARRISONBURG-ROCKINGHAM (LHR) SEEKS INDIVIDUALS WHO:

- Live or work in Harrisonburg or Rockingham County.
- Commit to the required time to the program to gain the most benefit.
- Utilize leadership skills and community knowledge for the long-term benefit of Harrisonburg-Rockingham County.
- Desire to establish or enhance leadership skills that will benefit you both professionally and personally.
- Have a recognized capacity for leadership.
- Have a sincere interest in civic involvement.
- Desire to positively impact the community

SELECTION COMMITTEE & SELECTION PROCESS:

The LHR Committee will review all applications and choose up to 25 participants to join the ten-month program. All applications are to be turned into the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce **no later than June 19, 2026**, with a selection process from June 19 - June 26, 2026.

Participants will be notified of their selection via e-mail no later than June 30, 2026.

TUITION:

Leadership Harrisonburg-Rockingham Program tuition fees are:

Company Size	Chamber Members	Non-Chamber Members
1-10	\$728	\$827
11-50	\$827	\$926
51+ Above	\$960	\$1058

The **deadline** to complete and turn in the application is by 5:00 p.m. on June 19, 2026.

Submitting your application after June 19 will result in a late fee of \$75.

Payment includes all ten program sessions, necessary materials, water, and lunch. The graduation cost is funded by a generous sponsor. Tuition can be paid by the participant or by the participant's employer. **TUITION PAYMENTS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.**

An invoice will be issued once the participant has accepted their spot in the class and is due in full by the start of the program session one Welcome Orientation & Reception date in August.

Complete the application form and Email application to Alan Sites, alan@hrchamber.org. You may also apply online at www.hrchamber.org.

For more information or questions, please contact Alan Sites at alan@hrchamber.org.

Application Form for Class of 2026-2027

Application Timeline:

June 19, 2026 by 5PM	Applications due at the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber
June 19 - June 26, 2026	Selection Process
June 30, 2026	Accepted Candidates notified via email.
August 5, 2026	Welcome Orientation and Reception

*Submission of application does not guarantee acceptance into the program.

Participation and Schedule:

In order to experience and completely appreciate the Leadership Harrisonburg-Rockingham program, full attendance and participation is expected of each participant. Lack of attendance and participation will impact your ability to graduate from the program. This benefits not only the individual but enriches the class's experience as well.

Session Schedule: Each Session is held on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Some sessions' dates may be subject to change due to inclement weather, holidays, or other operational needs.

Classes begin at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn by 4:00 p.m. Lunch is included for all regular sessions (excludes Welcome Orientation in August. Locations vary based on the session topic. Walking tours of some facilities may be included, if offered.

(Application begins on next page)

Leadership Harrisonburg-Rockingham 2026-2027 Application

Tuition Fee is due upon acceptance into the program and is non-refundable

Personal Contact Information

Last Name	First Name	MI	Preferred Name
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Home Address	City	State	Zip
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Preferred Contact Email	Gmail (<i>for access to documents and photos</i>)
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Employer (*if applicable*)

Employment Address	City	State	Zip
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Employer Email

Employer Phone	Cell Phone
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Employment (if applicable)

Job Title:

Do you lead or supervise any employees or a team? *If so please elaborate*

How long have you been at your current employer?

_____years

Briefly describe your job responsibilities or duties:

Education/Training

List all school/institution/training providers (beginning with the most recent):

School/Institution/Training Provider:

Degree or Certificate:

List any other professional training or certifications achieved:

Community Involvement

List any civic or charitable organizations that you are, or have been, involved in:

How would you use your experience with Leadership Harrisonburg-Rockingham to improve this community?

Leadership

Please list or describe any leadership experience you have:

What leadership skills or traits do you hope to gain from Leadership Harrisonburg-Rockingham?

Expectations

Please describe what you hope to gain from participating in Leadership Harrisonburg-Rockingham and how it can be applied to your current job and in the community:

References *(1 letter of support AND 1 letter of reference is required)*

Please attach a **letter of support from your employer** (if applicable) stating their willingness for you to commit the appropriate time to the Leadership program.

AND

Please attach a **letter of reference from someone (other than your employer)** who can attest to your character and leadership potential.

Referred By

How did you find out about Leadership Harrisonburg-Rockingham?

Commitment

I would like to apply to be a participant in Leadership Harrisonburg-Rockingham, Class of 2026-27. I am willing to commit the required time and involvement in the program, I will utilize my leadership skills and knowledge to the benefit of the community.

Pen / E-Signature Accepted *Date*

Photo Consent

I consent to having my photo taken at Leadership Harrisonburg-Rockingham sessions, which may be used by the Chamber for social media and other marketing materials.

Pen / E-Signature Accepted *Date*

Supporting Sponsor Commitment

I acknowledge that I will be supporting _____ in Leadership Harrisonburg-Rockingham, Class of 2026-27. I am willing to commit the required time and involvement in supporting the participant(s), I will utilize my leadership skills and knowledge to support them through the course.

Contact Name: _____ Contact email: _____

Pen / E-Signature Accepted *Date*