



GREATER YAKIMA
Chamber of Commerce

2026 - 2027 Leadership Yakima Application
Deadline – August 14, 2026

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name _____

Home Address _____

Work number _____

Cell Number _____

Work Address _____

Work Email _____

Personal Email _____

EDUCATION

	Name	Degree	Dates attended
High School	_____	_____	_____
College	_____	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____	_____

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Please list below all of your employers for the last five years, beginning with your present or last employer. Attach supplementary pages if necessary.

Employer	Title	Dates employed
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____



ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Please list up to four community, professional, business, religious, social, athletic or other organizations of which you are or have been a member.

	Organization	Dates of membership	Position held
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____

ESSAY:

Please explain what you consider to be your highest responsibility, skill, or career achievement to date and why?

How would you like to be more involved in your community?

HOLD HARMLESS RELEASE

WHEREAS, I, _____, have applied for admission to Leadership Yakima and to participate in the activities associated therewith, including, but not limited to, the mandatory Retreat in September and nine monthly sessions from October through June;

WHEREAS, I am participating in the aforesaid activities solely on my own initiative, risk and responsibility;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the permission extended to me to participate in the aforesaid activities, I do hereby for myself, my heirs, assigned executors, and administrators, voluntarily release, waive and forever discharge Leadership Yakima, its officers, agents, employees, the Leadership Yakima Executive Committee; in their individual capacities; and the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce, its board members, officers, members, agents, sponsors, and employees, from any and all claims or causes of action, personal injury, or property damage which result from or arise out of my participation in the aforesaid activities.

Witness Name & Signature _____ Date _____

Participant Name & Signature _____ Date _____

ATTENDANCE POLICY

1. You are expected to attend all program sessions. The Leadership Yakima program year consists of approximately 100 hours of seminars and experiences over a ten-month time period. It is important you attend all sessions, be on time and not leave early.
2. The Retreat is MANDATORY. If you are unable to attend the Retreat, your application must be withdrawn. You may apply again the following year. The Retreat will be held in September. Date TBD.
3. If you miss more than two hours from any session you will be counted as absent. You will be counted tardy for any time you miss that is less than two hours.
4. You are allowed two tardies. The third tardy will be counted as one full day absence. You are allowed up to two absences during the program year.
5. If you have two absences a letter will be sent to you and your employer reminding you of the absence policy. If there is a further absence, you will be terminated from the program with no refund of tuition.
6. If you are unable to attend a session, you must inform the Leadership Yakima Director 48 hours in advance.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

1. The Leadership Yakima experience will encourage and foster the development of professional relationships between classmates, Executive Committee members, and leaders of the Yakima community.
2. Participants will become better informed on the issues and needs facing our community as well as the resources available to address those challenges. You will meet first hand with leaders who work with nonprofit organizations and other groups that are committed to addressing challenges in our community.
3. Leadership Yakima assists participants with identifying issues in the community where they have a passion and use this experience as a catalyst to encourage student participation with nonprofit organizations that share similar interests and passions.
4. Participants are required to actively serve on a team with fellow classmates to develop and execute a community action project (as approved by the Executive Committee) to benefit a local nonprofit organization. The goal is to provide participants a group learning experience focused on development of leadership skills including identification of community issues, working with team members from varied backgrounds and experience, applying new skills and information to formulate an action plan, and to work through associated problems.
5. Participants are strongly encouraged to actively participate in group activities and engage in positive conversations with classmates and speakers. Participants shall be respectful of the views expressed by others and strive to use areas of disagreement as a learning opportunity.
6. Participants are required to complete and submit written evaluations on each session to the Executive Committee. Thoughtful input from participants provides Executive Committee members with the information necessary to ensure the continued improvement and success of this program.
7. Each class will elect a Class Representative and a Class Historian.
8. Participants will be respectful to their speakers and classmates. Cell phones must be turned off during the sessions. You may check in at your office during scheduled breaks or at lunchtime.

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED INFORMATION

Please include the following information with your application:

1. A letter of from your employer certifying support for your participation, including acknowledgement of attendance and willingness to support the cost of tuition. If your employer is not paying, please make note of whom to bill for the tuition.

2. Attach reference letters from three people who are familiar of your potential as a future community leader.

3. Please attach a separate piece of paper explaining:
 - A. What you hope to gain from your Leadership Yakima class experience.
 - B. What are the present three most pressing problems facing Yakima.
 - C. What you see yourself doing in employment and the community in the next five years.

CERTIFICATION

Applications must be returned to the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce office in person, by mail or email to kristi@yakima.org and chamber@yakima.org. If selected, you will be responsible for payment of a non-refundable participation fee of **\$999 for members - \$1250 for non-members** if your application was submitted prior to **June 15, 2026**. Applications submitted between June 16th, 2026 and August 14, 2026 will be responsible for a non-refundable participation fee of **\$1250 for members** and **\$1500 for non-members**. Payments must be received prior to the Retreat.

I understand that my application is subject to confidential evaluation. If I am not selected to participate in this Leadership Yakima, my application will be retained for future consideration unless I advise otherwise. I authorize my current and former employers and educational institutions to release to Leadership Yakima any information regarding my employment or education, which will help in selecting the participants for the program. I agree to attend the mandatory Retreat and to attend all further sessions throughout the year. I understand that attendance at the remaining nine sessions is mandatory.

Printed Name _____

Signature_____

Date _____

GREATER YAKIMA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mailing and physical address

10 N 9th St
Yakima, WA 98901
509-248-2021

Email completed application to kristi@yakima.org and chamber@yakima.org