



BLOWING ROCK LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE 2024

Blowing Rock
Chamber of Commerce
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The Blowing Rock Leadership Challenge

The Blowing Rock Leadership Challenge is a partnership effort of several local and regional organizations. The Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce is the producing sponsor and is responsible for overall coordination of the program and the selection of participants.

Many organizations participate in this effort and have provided resource people who have assisted in the design, development and implementation of the program. Local organizations and businesses are also involved in the program as host locations, tour sites, and session speakers and panelists.

The graduates of the first Blowing Rock Leadership Challenge in 2007 formed an Alumni Association to promote the continued involvement of class members through an ongoing program of events and networking opportunities. The alumni are participating in the design and programming of classes for 2024 and hosting specific class sessions. Graduates are encouraged to join the alumni group and become more involved in the community by joining civic groups, public boards as well as the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce. The Alumni will produce the local Candidate's Forum as a class project in October of 2025.

BLOWING ROCK LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE Class of 2024

TO INFORM . . . TO MOTIVATE . . . TO CHALLENGE

What is Blowing Rock Leadership Challenge?

The Blowing Rock Leadership Challenge is an innovative leadership development program sponsored by the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce. This program is designed to meet our community's future needs for the active participation of informed and educated leaders. The goal of the program is to identify potential leaders and provide them with the community information and encouragement needed to spur local action and involvement. Graduates are challenged to apply their talents throughout the community by becoming a part of local organizations, including public boards, nonprofit groups, civic clubs and the Chamber.



The mission of the Blowing Rock Leadership Challenge is the continued improvement of our community. The profile of Blowing Rock and our county is changing and today's leaders need to have access to more timely information. Visits with community and government leaders offer opportunities to interact with those affecting change.

The 8-week long program will enable participants to gain a realistic understanding of how our community works and help create an awareness of our community's current interests. Participants are encouraged to explore our community and challenged to become involved in the issues that affect them.

How is the Program Structured?

Participants (and their employers) are asked to make a major time commitment to nine sessions, beginning with a full-day retreat session on **March 1st** and closing with a wrap up session and graduation ceremony **April 24th**. A series of seven half-day sessions provides information about the community and includes tours of area businesses, governmental organizations and community facilities. The sessions are planned by experts and leaders in the topic area and will offer information and thoughtful analysis. Sessions are designed to stimulate interest and awareness and will include an opportunity to interact with the speakers and discussion leaders.

How are Participants Selected?

The class is open to 15 participants. Residents or employees of Blowing Rock businesses should complete the enclosed application, which will be reviewed by a selection committee. After a thorough review of all applications submitted, participants will be selected in an effort to form a group of gender, geographical, general and occupational balance. To graduate, attendance at all scheduled sessions is expected. The class tuition fee of \$375 includes program materials, refreshments for all sessions, graduation dinner and diploma. Program sponsors supplement other costs. For additional information contact the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce at (828) 295-7851.



Application Form
BLOWING ROCK LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE 2024
Return Date: February 1, 2024
Return to: Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 406, Blowing Rock, NC 28605

Name _____ Known As _____
 Home Address _____ Phone _____
 Employer _____ Phone _____
 Business Address _____ E-mail _____
 Title _____ Length of Employment _____

The responsibilities of my position include:

EDUCATION

High School _____ Location _____ Diploma/Year _____
 College or Other _____ Location _____ Diploma/Year _____
 Post Graduate _____ Location _____ Diploma/Year _____

Community activities in which I have participated (list in order of importance to you)

Activity _____ Location _____ Year _____
 Activity _____ Location _____ Year _____
 Activity _____ Location _____ Year _____

What do you feel you have accomplished in these areas? _____

I wish to participate in the Blowing Rock Leadership Challenge 2019 because _____

Other Areas of Interest for Biographical Sketch

Hometown _____ Date of Birth _____
 Family (include names and ages of children) _____
 Hobbies and Interests _____

2024 BLOWING ROCK LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE PROGRAM

Fridayay, March 1, 2024 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Kickoff Retreat Session	Full day Friday. Orientation, meet classmates; distribution of course materials and team building exercises. Blowing Rock Conference Center
Sunday, March 3 3:00 pm. - 5:30 pm.	History of Blowing Rock	Afternoon high tea with local speakers to hear from natives about Blowing Rock's history and culture. Historic Green Park Inn*
Wednesday, March 6 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Civic Infrastructure	Presentations from government officials. Meet elected officials. Tours of Town offices and facilities. The function and operation of local city and county government will be reviewed. Blowing Rock Town Hall, Council Chambers
Wednesday, March 13 1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Business Development	Tour local businesses and hear from various speakers on the local economy. The importance of various economic sectors (tourism, real estate, retail) will be discussed. Chetola Resort*
Wednesday, March 20 1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Workforce Development	Update on the status of Watauga County Schools, current issues and long-range plans. Tours of related facilities. Role of Caldwell Community College, App State, Workforce Development, NC Works & Watauga EDC Watauga High School—Room TBA
Wednesday, March 27 1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Physical Infrastructure	Current challenges in infrastructure and environmental issues will be reviewed. Tour water or waste water treatment plant and other facilities. Meadowbrook Inn,
Wednesday, April 3 1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Cultural Infrastructure	Review role of the arts and their associated organizations and businesses. Cultural heritage, livability issues and downtown vitalization will also be addressed. BRAHM , Community Meeting Room,
Wednesday, April 10 12:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Social Infrastructure	Presentations and tours planned by local healthcare organizations, social services and other community based groups. Samaritan's Center*
Wednesday, April 17 11:30—5:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Closing Session Graduation Event	The closing session will allow participants to review the total program and focus on future direction. The graduation event will provide an opportunity for the graduate to celebrate his/her success with their family and work colleagues. An after dinner speaker will challenge the graduates to become more involved in the future of Blowing Rock. Chamber / Blowing Rock Country Club*

If selected for the 2024 class of Blowing Rock Leadership Challenge, I commit to attend the retreat, all eight sessions and the graduation event. Attendance at the retreat is mandatory. I understand that if I am unable to attend a session, I will be asked to attend some alternate event as a make up session in order to qualify for graduation.

Signed _____

As the employer or direct supervisor of _____, I authorize my employee to be absent from work for the dates shown on this application.

Signed _____

Name _____

Business or Organization _____