



“The Emerging Excellence of Hernando County”



2024 Leadership Hernando Application

Thank you for your interest in Leadership Hernando! Since 1991, Leadership Hernando has sought to identify individuals most likely to utilize their leadership abilities for the long-term benefit of Hernando County. Over the past 32 years, the Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce has been presenting this program to the business community, graduating over 800 business professionals who have gone on to become remarkable Hernando County community leaders.

This leadership program was designed to explore critical issues through a series of seminars and hands-on activities. Our program includes topics such as: the history of Hernando County; leadership skills; tourism; agriculture; health and human services; law enforcement and First Responders; economic and business development; government; media, and more.

We are committed to creating new county knowledge. Our program Steering Committee is made up of Leadership Hernando Alumni who are armed with practical knowledge so we can continually advance the content of this program. This Steering Committee will determine the composition of each class assuring diversity from a variety of businesses, non-profits, educational institutions, government agencies, cultures, and functional backgrounds. Class-size is limited, and commitment to the program remains paramount.

Approximately twenty (20) individuals will be selected to participate in the program following an interview process by the Steering Committee. Since the number of appointments to Leadership Hernando is limited, applicants who are not selected are encouraged to reapply in a future year.

Leadership Hernando participants are selected based on the following criteria:

- ✓ Live or work in Hernando County.
- ✓ Have the full support of the organization, corporation, or company they represent.
- ✓ Have a sincere interest and are motivated to serve the community.
- ✓ Have the commitment and enthusiasm to utilize their leadership abilities for the long-term benefit of Hernando County.
- ✓ May be interested in seeking, or intend to seek, public office, boards, commissions, or key volunteer roles.
- ✓ Have potential opportunities for advancement to top leadership positions within their organizations.
- ✓ Represent all segments of the community.
- ✓ Have a commitment to play a personal role in helping to shape Hernando County's future.
- ✓ Have a professional appearance and demeanor.

The program strives for classes that represent the geographic, occupational, gender, ethnic, and other diversities of our area which includes public, not for profit, private, and large and small businesses.

Additional questions may be addressed to the Leadership Hernando team via email:
Leadership@HernandoChamber.com.

Application Instructions

- All applications must be submitted electronically. *Hard copy applications will NOT be accepted.*
- A cover letter must be included. Each section must be completed, attach additional sheets if necessary.
- Submit your application by the deadline via email to Leadership@HernandoChamber.com.

Leadership Hernando Applicant Information

Full Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Company Address: _____

City State Zip: _____

Cell Phone: _____ **Work Phone:** _____

Work Email: _____

Is your company a Chamber Member? _____ **Yes** _____ **No**

Home Address: _____

City State Zip: _____

Cell Phone: _____ **# of years as Hernando County resident:** _____

Personal email: _____

Hobbies/Interests: _____

Emergency Contact: *Name, Phone, Relationship*

Are you a registered voter in Hernando County? _____ **Yes** _____ **No**

Why are you applying for Leadership Hernando? Why you should be chosen for this year's Class?

Describe your personality in three sentences or less, then list one unusual or "fun" fact about yourself.

In your opinion, what are the three greatest challenges facing Hernando County today? Give any recommendations for approaching and/or resolving these issues (use additional paper if necessary).

Do you have any dietary needs or restrictions? _____

Any allergies? _____

T-Shirt size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL

Do you require any special accommodations? _____

Education *(Include highest level of education and/or specialized training)*

Name and Location of School **Dates (From/To)** **Degree/Major**

Name and Location of School	Dates (From/To)	Degree/Major
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Extracurricular Activities/Leadership Positions/Awards

Employment

Present Employer: _____

Type of Business: _____ **How long:** _____

Job Title: _____

Briefly describe your current job:

List previous employment for the past 10 years (add additional sheets if necessary)

<i>Employer</i>	<i>Title/Responsibility</i>	<i>From/To</i>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

What do you consider your highest professional achievement?

Community Service/ Professional Affiliations

List community, civic, professional, religious, social, athletic and any other business organization or club of which you are/have been a member of during the past 10 years.

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Position Held/Contribution</i>	<i>Period of Affiliation</i>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

What do you consider your most important accomplishment in one of these organizations? Why?

On average, how much time each month do you commit to volunteer activities? _____

What kinds of additional volunteer activities would you like to become active with in the future?

If you have not previously had the time or interest to become actively involved, what conditions have changed that now enable you to seek involvement in your community?

References

1) Name: _____ Title: _____
Company: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____

2) Name: _____ Title: _____
Company: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____

3) Name: _____ Title: _____
Company: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____

Tuition

The cost is inclusive of all seminar materials, field trips, refreshments, transportation, meals, and the graduation ceremony. Additionally, the tuition cost also includes lodging, dinner, and lunch if participant chooses to attend Hernando County Day at the Capitol. If accepted into **Leadership Hernando**, you/your employer will be billed for the tuition fee which is due upon receipt of the invoice.

Tuition Fees:

- ☐ **\$1,000 for Chamber Members**
- ☐ **\$1,200 for non-Chamber Members**

The tuition paid for Leadership Hernando may be tax deductible as a business expense, but consult your tax advisor. Tuition must be paid prior to the start of the program or you will not be allowed to attend.

Partial scholarships may be available for **non-profit** organizations. Please submit a letter of need with this application.

Commitment

Participants are expected to attend ALL sessions, each of which will last a full day (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.). To graduate, a participant must attend *Orientation, Team Building, SIMSOC, and Graduation.*

Advanced notification of a potential missed day, excluding emergencies, must be submitted to Day Leader(s) at least 24 hours prior to class.

“I understand the purposes of the Leadership Hernando program, and, if I am selected, will devote the time and resources necessary to complete the program. I understand that even though emergencies do arise, any participant missing Orientation, Team Building, SIMSOC, or Graduation, or more than two program sessions for whatever reason, will not be allowed to graduate from the program and no portion of the tuition will be refunded. I agree to be bound by the above commitments by signing this application.”

Applicant Name (print)

Date

Applicant Signature

Date

“I fully support this candidate’s application. I understand the Leadership Hernando time commitment as well as Class Schedule (including all day sessions January to June, plus class orientation and graduation) for this employee should they be selected for the program. I understand that tuition must be paid prior to the start of the program.”

Employer/Supervisor Contact Name (print)

Date

Employer/Supervisor Signature