

Leadership Grow

PALM BEACH COUNTY

Leadership Palm Beach County Grow - A Leadership Program for High School Juniors

Students must apply in their sophomore year and if accepted, will participate in their junior year. The program is held at various locations throughout the county and is held one school day per month 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A student's attendance in Grow will be marked as an excused absence from school.

Program Overview

Each year, Leadership Palm Beach County (Leadership PBC) invites motivated high school students to participate in the Leadership PBC Grow Program, a leadership development experience designed to cultivate civic-minded leaders and inspire positive impact throughout Palm Beach County.

The Selection Committee seeks a diverse group of students representing a wide range of schools, neighborhoods, interests, and backgrounds. While participants may differ in academic focus or extracurricular involvement, all selected students demonstrate:

- A genuine interest in improving their community
- Involvement or initiative in school or community activities
- A desire to develop leadership, teamwork, and communication skills
- Strong character, responsibility, and integrity
- Willingness to learn about local issues and collaborate with others
- Motivation to continue growing as a leader beyond the program

Through education, hands-on experiences, and collaboration with peers and mentors, students deepen their understanding of community challenges and build skills that prepare them for future leadership roles.

About Leadership Palm Beach County

Leadership Palm Beach County is a nonprofit organization that brings together leaders from the public, private, nonprofit, and youth sectors to strengthen the community.

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Since 1983, Leadership PBC has prepared more than **2,000 adult and youth leaders** for lifelong involvement in civic leadership and service throughout Palm Beach County.

Program Structure

The Leadership Engage Student Program is a school-year program focused on leadership skill development and community awareness.

- Students participate in structured sessions throughout the academic year.
 - Sessions explore topics such as education, public safety, healthcare, the environment, and community service.
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Student Benefits

Participants will:

- Learn about key challenges and opportunities in Palm Beach County.
 - Build leadership, communication, and critical-thinking skills.
 - Develop teamwork and collaboration experience.
 - Gain exposure to community leaders and role models.
 - Strengthen college, scholarship, and future program applications.
 - Build confidence and a strong sense of civic responsibility.
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Eligibility & Selection Criteria

Leadership PBC seeks students who demonstrate:

- Leadership potential in school, extracurricular, volunteer, or community settings.
- Initiative, responsibility, and follow-through.
- Curiosity about community issues.
- A positive attitude and willingness to participate fully.

Applications are reviewed by a Selection Committee and scored based on essay responses and overall involvement. References may be contacted.

Applications are due by Friday, April 3, 2026, at 5 p.m.

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Eligibility Requirements:

- Applicants must be current high school sophomores (10th grade) to apply.
 - Applicants must obtain **permission from their school principal** to participate in the program.
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Time Commitment

Students should apply only if they are able to meet all program requirements. Participation in scheduled activities is essential to the success of the program.

Program Schedule:

- September 15, 2026 - Orientation
- September 26, 2026 - Opening Retreat/Ropes Course
- October 1, 2026 - Civics Day
- November 5, 2026 - Health & Human Services Day
- December 3, 2026 - Environment Day
- January 7, 2027 - Public Safety Day
- February 4, 2027 - Media & Arts Day
- March 4, 2027 - Agriculture Day
- April 1, 2027 - Business & Marine Industries Day
- April 20, 2027 - Graduation

Attendance Expectations:

- Attendance at all scheduled sessions is expected
 - One excused absence may be permitted
 - Participation in the opening retreat and graduation ceremony is mandatory
 - Students are responsible for coordinating with their school and obtaining **principal approval** for participation
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Tuition & Financial Support

Tuition is fully covered for accepted students.

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Student Application Information

The application helps reviewers understand each student's background, interests, and leadership potential.

Applicant Name: _____

Section 1: School & Activity Experience

Describe your involvement in school, clubs, sports, volunteer work, part-time jobs, or leadership roles. List **up to five activities** that best demonstrate responsibility or leadership. (Examples include student government, clubs, athletics, tutoring, community service, faith-based activities, or school organizations.)

Section 1A: Student Employment (If Applicable)

If you have held a part-time, seasonal, or summer job, internship, or worked in a family business, list **up to two positions**. Employment is not required for this program; this section helps reviewers understand your responsibilities, time management, and work ethic.

Employer/Organization	Position/Role	Responsibilities & Skills Learned	Dates

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Applicant Name: _____ Section _____

2: Education

Provide your current school, grade level, and any academic honors or achievements.

Current School: _____ Grade Level: _____

Academic Honors/Achievements:

Section 3: Leadership Essays

Provide as a separate Microsoft Word attachment. *(200–250 words each.)*

3.1 Leadership Experience

Describe a time when you demonstrated leadership at school, in an activity, or in your community. What actions did you take, and what was the result? (You can describe up to 3 examples.)

3.2 Collaboration & Teamwork

Describe a situation where you worked with others to solve a problem or achieve a goal. How did you contribute, and what did you learn?

3.3 Community Issue Awareness

Identify an issue facing Palm Beach County or your local community. Why is it important, and how could students help address it?

3.4 Leadership Growth

Explain how you are working to improve yourself as a leader. Include classes, clubs, mentors, or experiences that have helped you grow.

3.5 Initiative or Vision

Describe a time you took initiative, tried something new, or took a risk that led to a positive outcome.

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3.6 Contribution to the Class

What makes you unique? Describe the perspective, strengths, or experiences you would bring to the Leadership Engage Student class.

Letter of Recommendation *(Optional but Encouraged)*

Applicants may submit **one (1) letter of recommendation**. The letter may be written by:

- A school counselor
- A teacher or school administrator
- A business, nonprofit, or community leader familiar with the student

Guidelines for recommendation letters:

- Maximum length: one page
- Must be signed and include the recommender's title and contact information
- Recommendation letters should be emailed directly to **GrowApply@LeadershipPBC.org** with email subject line: *Student Recommendation – Applicant Name*

Guidelines for Grow student applications:

- Applying for Leadership Grow is a 2-step process – complete the online application [HERE](#).
- This paper application which includes the essay portion should be emailed all in one document – NOT as separate attachments – to **GrowApply@LeadershipPBC.org** with YOUR NAME in the subject line.

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Principal Approval Statement (Required)

Participation in the Leadership Engage Student Program requires approval from the student's school principal due to program activities occurring during the academic year.

Principal Approval Statement:

I confirm that I am the principal or authorized school administrator for the student named below. I approve of this student's participation in the Leadership Engage Student Program during the 2026-2027 academic year and acknowledge that participation may require the student to be absent from school for approved program activities.

Student Name: _____

School: _____

Principal/Administrator Name: _____

Title: _____ **Signature:** _____

Date: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Student & Parent/Guardian Commitment

By applying, the student and parent/guardian understand and agree that:

- Full participation, respectful behavior, and engagement are required.
- Attendance expectations must be met to complete the program.
- **School principal approval is required** for participation.
- Parents/guardians support the student's time commitment and participation.

Signatures from both the student and a parent/guardian are required if the student is accepted.

Contact Information

Leadership Palm Beach County

Office: (561)833-4321

Email: GrowApply@LeadershipPBC.org

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