



Leadership Pickens County Application

Class XXXV (2026 - 2027) Application Deadline: July 15, 2026

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name _____

Home Address _____
Street or PO Box City Zip

Employer _____

Business Mailing Address _____

Email _____

Business Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Sponsoring Organization _____
(Typically, this will be your employer. If no sponsor, enter none.)

Are you a resident of Pickens County? _____ Yes _____ No

By participating in Leadership Pickens County (LPC), I agree to participate in all activities planned for the LPC program, including preparation or implementation of the class project or any other activity that relates to the program as a whole. **I understand that even though emergencies do arise, attendance at the class retreat session is mandatory.** I also understand that **any participant missing more than two (2) follow-up sessions will not be eligible for graduation** from the program. No tuition refunds will be issued due to excessive absences or failure to graduate. **Please see Page 5 of this application for the full listing of all LPC session dates.**

Applicant Signature (*acknowledging mandatory retreat attendance & session absence policy*) _____

_____ Date

CEO/EMPLOYER ENDORSEMENT

I hereby recommend _____ for consideration in Leadership Pickens County. If selected, I understand the attendance requirements for LPC and agree to provide adequate time away from regular job duties to attend the sessions and activities.

Name _____ Title _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Application must be filled out completely and submitted no later than July 15, 2026. Tuition is \$1,100 and must be paid in full by check no later than August 10, 2026. In addition, partial scholarship assistance is available. All payments must be made to "Leadership Pickens County" by check only. Please see Page 4 for tuition details and/or to request consideration for scholarship assistance.

Completed application can be emailed Brian Swords, Easley Chamber of Commerce President, at bswords@easleychamber.org or mailed to Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 241, Easley SC 29641.

PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION *(If more space is needed, please use back of page.)*

Employer _____

Position/Title _____

How long have you been employed with your current employer? _____

List any special honors, awards or certifications earned in your professional career.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT *(If more space is needed, please use back of page.)*

List up to five community, civic, professional, social or other organizations with which you are or have been a member or volunteer.

Name of Organization	Role Served	Dates of Involvement
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

What is the most significant or rewarding thing you have learned as the result of your community/volunteer involvement? And how has it impacted your personal and/or professional life?

If invited to participate in Leadership Pickens County, what would your community involvement or professional experience bring to the Leadership Pickens County program?

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Have you participated in other leadership development programs? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, what program(s)? _____

How long have you lived and/or worked in Pickens County? _____

In your opinion, what are the biggest challenges and/or opportunities for Pickens County?

If invited to participate in Leadership Pickens County, what type of leadership development information or activities would you like included in the program to enhance your current skills?

If invited to participate in Leadership Pickens County, what do you hope to gain from the overall experience?

TUITION INFORMATION

Tuition for Leadership Pickens County is \$1,100 which covers all materials, food, transportation and any other related program costs. **Tuition must be paid in full, by check only, by August 10, 2026. Checks should be made out to Leadership Pickens County. Your check should accompany your application, if possible.**

Please make check payable to Leadership Pickens County and mail payment and application to:

Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 241
Easley, SC 29641

If an invoice is needed to process your tuition payment with your accounting department, please call the Greater Easley Chamber at 864-859-2693.

SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

Currently, there are three sponsoring chambers for Leadership Pickens County (Clemson Area Chamber, Greater Easley, and Greater Pickens). Each chamber awards one partial scholarship of \$550 (half of the full tuition amount) for the LPC program. There are no full scholarships available. Scholarships will be awarded based on financial need. Applications for scholarship assistance are considered separately and will not affect class selection. **Deadline to request consideration for tuition scholarship assistance is July 1, 2026.**

Do you wish to be considered for scholarship assistance? Yes No

From which chamber of commerce is your company requesting a scholarship?

Clemson Easley Pickens

Please explain the circumstances that require you or your employer to seek tuition scholarship assistance.

(If more space is needed, please use back of page.)

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QUESTIONS

For any questions regarding the Leadership Pickens County program, please contact the Easley Chamber of Commerce at 864/859-2693 or bswords@easleychamber.org.



Class XXXV (2026 – 2027) **Session Dates & Topics**

Tuesday / Wednesday September 8 and 9, 2026	Class Retreat / Orientation <i>Tri-County Technical College – Easley Campus</i> ** Mandatory for class participation **
Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM	Community Service Session
Tuesday, November 10, 2026 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM	Healthcare Session
Tuesday, December 8, 2026 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM	Local Government Session
Tuesday, January 12, 2027 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM	Economic Development Session
February, 2027 (Date TBD) 6:30 AM – 7:00 PM	State Government Session
March 9, 2027 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM	Communications Session
Tuesday, April 13, 2027 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Education Session
Tuesday, May 4, 2027 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Recreation and Tourism Session
Tuesday, May 18, 2027 6:30 – 8:00 PM	Graduation Dinner & Celebration (Evening Event) <i>Location: TBD</i>

CLASS PROJECT

As part of the Leadership Pickens County experience, each class is required to complete a community service project, which should be implemented by April 30, 2027. At the Class Retreat, the class will seat committees to effectively manage & execute the project. However, EVERY class member is required to be actively engaged in identifying the project, as well as implementing the project. To get the project started on a firm path, a small group of classmates will meet with the LPC Board of Regents to present an overview of your proposed class project. This presentation takes place on November 10, 2026.

During some of the full-day sessions, the agenda will allow for discussion related to your class project. However, to successfully develop and implement your class project, you will most likely need to schedule meetings outside the time frame of the scheduled follow-up sessions. The scope and timeline of the class project will determine the number and frequency of these extra meetings. The class members will collectively decide how to plan and manage these meetings.



Code of Conduct

As current and future leaders, Leadership Pickens County class members are stewards of our community so it's imperative that our LPC participants always display the highest level of professionalism and accountability. With this objective in mind, a "Code of Conduct" has been developed which all participants are expected to follow.

I will arrive on time, recognizing the need to stay on schedule to complete the full session agenda.

I will participate in the class sessions using the group transportation provided (*if applicable*). The Chamber must be notified in advance of any plans that a class member will not travel with the group for a particular session.

I will give session speakers my full attention. Class noise and/or side-bar conversations not only cause distractions but also foster a sense of disrespect for our speakers' time and expertise.

I will silence my cell phone and will not check messages, return calls, or browse the internet during speaker presentations. Other than an emergency, ALL my cell phone usage should be limited to scheduled breaks and lunch. Cell phones create distractions for other class members, as well as speakers who have graciously donated their time and expertise. LPC understands unexpected situations that require attention; however, these situations should be rare in occurrence.

I will demonstrate a respectful attitude in expressing my opinions and listening to others. Differences of opinion can sometimes become more disruptive and argumentative than objective and diplomatic. Effective leadership evaluates all sides of the issue before reaching an agreeable solution.

I will make every attempt to attend every class session, and if unable to attend, I will notify the chamber in advance of the session.

I am expected to comply with the agenda and instructions given by the session facilitators.

I will participate in the class sessions for the full agenda time. In addition, I understand that absence from any portion of a session will be counted as a full session absence (i.e. arriving late, leaving & returning during the day, or leaving the session prior to the scheduled adjournment), unless prior approval has been given. Class members will be required to sign-in and sign-out of each session to confirm their attendance.

I understand that participation in the class retreat is mandatory. Other than the class retreat, there is a total of two (2) session absences allowed for the duration of the program. I understand that absence from any portion of a session will be counted as a session absence (i.e. arriving late, leaving & returning during the day, or leaving the session prior to the scheduled adjournment). Exceeding the total of allowable absence will result in failure to be eligible for graduation. No tuition refunds will be issued due to excessive absences or failure to graduate.

I understand there is a requirement to actively participate in the successful implementation of the class community service project. Failure to uphold this expectation not only compromises the cohesiveness of the LPC class but potentially lessens the impact the class project will have on our community.

I have read and understand the Code of Conduct for the Leadership Pickens County program, and I agree to adhere to these guidelines during my participation in Leadership Pickens County.

Applicant - Print Name

Signature

Date