

Leadership Haywood

Grow as a leader. Learn how Haywood County works. Help shape the future

For over 25 years, Leadership Haywood has helped local people become stronger leaders and get to know the organizations, issues, and people that shape Haywood County. Over nine months, you'll grow as a leader, see how the community works from the inside, and build relationships across it.

Applications for the Class of 2026–2027 open July 15, 2026.

At a Glance

- **Orientation** in late August
- **Nine months**, September through May
- **One full day a month**, the second Wednesday
- **Graduation** at the Chamber's Annual Dinner
- **Tuition:** \$900 Non-Chamber member (\$800 Chamber member)

About the Program

Leadership Haywood is for those who want a deeper understanding of the county and how they can play a larger role in Haywood County's future. Through hands-on monthly sessions, participants explore the areas that shape Haywood County — Government, Economic Development, Education, Health, and more — guided by the local leaders and professionals working in each one.

The program also builds connections. It brings people together from different industries and backgrounds to help grow personally and professionally as leaders. Leadership Haywood will give you the opportunity to grow within your own organization and to lead in the community.

What You'll Explore

Each session focuses on a different part of the county:

- Local Government
 - Economic Development
 - Education and Workforce
 - History and Culture
 - Environment and Natural Resources
 - Health, Human Services, and Non-Profits
 - Public Safety and Justice
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Who Should Apply

You're a good fit if you:

- Live or work in Haywood County
- Want to grow as a leader
- Want to be more involved in the community
- Are new to leadership or well established in it
- Can commit to one full day a month - September through May

A Chamber membership is not required to apply.

The Details

Dates: September 2026 – May 2027

Schedule: Second Wednesday of each month

Class Size: 18 participants

Tuition: \$900 for Non-Chamber member; \$800 for Chamber member. Covers all sessions, materials, and meals.

Attendance: No more than two absences to graduate.

How to Apply

1. **Apply** by August 19, 2026.
2. **Applications are reviewed** by the President and Advisory Chair
3. **You'll hear back** by August 21, 2026.

Space is limited.

From Our Alumni

"Leadership Haywood plays a uniquely important role in connecting Haywood County organizations together."

— Ken Howle, Executive Director, Lake Junaluska

Questions?

Contact:

David Francis, President

Haywood Chamber of Commerce

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