

**A LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE
THOMASTON-UPSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP UPSON
INFORMATION SHEET – 2024-2025**

**The deadline to submit Youth Leadership Upson Documents will be
Friday, August 23, 2024, at 4:00pm.**

PARTICIPANTS:

Any student that is a resident of Upson County and is a member of the Sophomore, Junior or Senior class can participate in the Youth Leadership Upson Program. We encourage participation from all three classes.

A Home-Schooled or Private Schooled student may apply, but they must live in Upson County and be an Upson EMC Customer.

Applicants must complete an application, plus have the recommendations of two adults. Please send in the original Youth Leadership Application. The application must be hand-written by the applicant.

When the judges are considering a student to recommend, they look for those who have:

- ❖ Demonstrated leadership qualities through their actions with service to school, church, civic or youth activities
- ❖ Involvement in sports, after-school activities, clubs, or organizations
- ❖ Shown initiative, enthusiasm
- ❖ Integrity of character
- ❖ Interest in people
- ❖ Potential for contributing to the program
- ❖ Strong recommendations explaining the leadership behavior in student

**JUDGES THAT SELECT THE CANDIDATES FOR YOUTH
LEADERSHIP UPSON ARE NOT LOCAL!**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of Youth Leadership Upson shall be to identify emerging leaders among the youth of our community, and to provide for them an organized training program in the skills necessary to act in leadership capacities, to address issues of concern to them in their personal, academic, extracurricular and community involvement.

PROGRAMS:

Participants can expect to be trained by leadership development professionals, be involved in group discussions, participate in presentations, benefit from guest speakers and become actively involved in session topics. Participants will gain insight and knowledge of the Thomaston-Upson community.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

Participants in Youth Leadership Upson are selected after consideration of their recognized and potential leadership and the merit of their application and recommendations. Interviews are only necessary if the margin between two students is too narrow. At the conclusion of Youth Leadership Upson, participants will have developed a network of in-depth relationships with students from throughout the community and will have gained a deeper insight and broader knowledge of leadership skills and community issues.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance at all programs is required. If an emergency arises, a written explanation must be submitted to the Youth Leadership Upson Committee. The committee will then determine if the absence is excused or not. If more than one program is missed, the student will not graduate from the program.

HUBERT HANCOCK LEADERSHIP AWARD

Upson EMC and the Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce HAVE A PARTNERSHIP THAT ENHANCES the Youth Leadership Upson Program, with the Hubert Hancock Leadership Award - Washington Youth Tour, the prize for the “most outstanding” of the group. The award, named locally to honor Hubert Hancock, longtime Upson EMC director and Chamber supporter, will give a selected student the opportunity to join others from Georgia for a two-day Georgia Tour, then venture on with students from across the nation on an incredible week in Washington, D.C. known as the Washington Youth Tour. The tour is a fast-paced once in a lifetime opportunity to see how America works. The student is selected by his/her peers, as well as attendance with every program, participation to the fullest degree and submission of all applications, references, and permission slips on time and accurately. Then, out of town judges conduct the interviews of the six finalists.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

Two letters of recommendation are required. Recommendations can be submitted on the Chamber website or turned in with the Youth Leadership Application. Be sure to follow up with those that you have asked to fill out your forms and do not wait until the last minute to ask someone to do this for you.

These forms should be written by:

1. One school official (teacher, counselor, etc) who knows you.
2. One other adult who knows you or has worked with you in some organizational or supervisory capacity (minister, employer, non-profit etc).

Follow up to ensure that your recommendation forms are sent in. They are a crucial part of your application. APPLICATION AND RECOMMENDATION FORMS MUST TURNED IN AT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BY 4:00 p.m, FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2024. Failure to return all parts of the application will mean that you will not be considered for this program.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP UPSON

P.O. BOX 827
110 WEST MAIN STREET
THOMASTON, GEORGIA 30286

2024-2025 APPLICATION

Applications must be HANDWRITTEN by the applicant

***May we suggest you make a copy of this application before you begin writing**

***Please note if you are selected for the program and are dual enrolled, that it will be your responsibility to let your professors know about any days you may miss due to the program.**

I. BASIC INFORMATION

Name _____
Last First Name Called

Home and Mailing Address _____
Street and Number

City / State Zip Code Date of Birth: _____

Student Cell Phone: _____ - _____ - _____ Parent's Cell Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Student's E-mail Address: _____

Name of School you attend: _____ School Grade: _____

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian: _____

Are you employed? If so, where: _____

Do you play sports or participate in any after-school activities? If so, what: _____

List any clubs & organizations of which you are affiliated: _____

Special awards and/or honors received: _____

What are you currently doing that demonstrates your leadership abilities? Whether at your school, in your community, or your church?

What is your greatest strength and please explain why?

What do you feel is the most significant challenge facing the community in which you live?

Please offer suggestions or a solution as to how to tackle the challenge you presented above?

Name something that you feel is unique about Upson County and why. _____

What knowledge do you hope to gain from your participation in Youth Leadership Upson? _____

II. COMMITMENT

Participation requires attendance at all regularly scheduled monthly Youth Leadership Upson meetings/activities. Dates will be given at orientation.

Will your work or other commitments compete with your ability to participate in monthly activities?

Yes _____ No _____ Not Applicable _____

If yes, explain what adjustments you expect to make: _____

Participants for the Youth Leadership Upson program must have the support of their employer. The signature of the supervisor is necessary as an indication of support. Please leave this blank if you are not currently employed.

Signature of Supervisor

Title

Participants for the Youth Leadership Upson program must have the support of their coach(s). The signature of the coach is necessary as an indication of support. Please leave this blank if you are not currently playing a sport.

Signature of Coach/Sponsor

Sport

Signature of Coach/Sponsor

Sport

APPLICANT COMMITMENT

I understand the purpose of the Youth Leadership Upson program. If I am selected, I will commit the necessary time and resources to complete the program. Even though emergencies do arise, if I miss more than one session or trip, I understand that I may be asked to withdraw from the program. If selected, I understand that I will be asked to sign a code of conduct committing myself to this organization and the behavior and rules it stands for. In signing this application, I understand and accept these commitments and agree to honor them. I am aware that any information that I place on this application is subject to review and if any information is incorrectly or dishonestly placed on this application, I will be asked to withdraw from the program.

Applicant Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Date

Return by mail to: Youth Leadership Upson Committee
Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 827
Thomaston, GA 30286

Return to the Chamber office at: Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce
110 West Main Street
Thomaston, GA 30286

Your Application, Possible Date Conflict Form, and two recommendation forms must be received by 4:00 pm on Friday, AUGUST 23, 2024.

Youth Leadership Upson is a program of the Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce and is sponsored by Upson EMC.

Applicants must complete an application form and have two references to be considered for the program. Please feel free to write on the back of this application or add additional paper if you need more space.

**RECOMMENDATION FORM FOR
YOUTH LEADERSHIP UPSON 2024-2025**

***Students must have two recommendation forms filled out by two different individuals.
It can be a teacher, counselor, pastor, etc.
Recommendations cannot be from immediate family members.***

Student's Name: _____

Length of time you have known student: _____

In what capacity have you known student? _____

Please list student's leadership accomplishments and make comments regarding leadership behavior: _____

What do you feel this student could contribute to Youth Leadership Upson? _____

Understanding that some students may exhibit more potential than accomplishments in this area, please comment on the leadership potential this student has exhibited: _____

Comment on the benefits you believe this student would receive from participating in Youth Leadership Upson: _____

Feel free to give any additional comments here to support your recommendation of this student: _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Note: This recommendation form can be submitted on the Chamber Website. Visit www.thomastongachamber.com – Community – Youth Leadership Upson

Please return completed form to:

Youth Leadership Upson Committee
Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 827
Thomaston, GA 30286

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT INFORMATION TO CHAMBER IS FRIDAY,
AUGUST 23, 2024, AT 4:00PM.**

This is a crucial part of the student's application. Please make sure that this form is returned to the Chamber by the deadline. Points will be deducted from the students' application if recommendation forms are not in by the deadline date and time.

Your Signature: _____

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