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**TEEN LEADERSHIP CLASS OF 2026**

Teen Leadership Venice is a program providing area high school students a chance to enhance their knowledge and develop leadership skills that will empower and motivate them to become involved and committed to their community.

Students who will be freshmen, sophomores, juniors or seniors during the 2025-2026 school year are eligible to apply.

**Selection Process**

Participants for the program are selected based on the application and reference. No fee is due prior to acceptance.

**How to Apply**

1. Complete the first three pages of the application.
	1. If your application is not complete, your application may not be considered.
2. Sign your name at the bottom of page three.
3. Prepare and attach your essays to your application.
4. Request that your high school principal complete the permission form and send it directly to Barbara Hines at [bhines@venicechamber.com](file:///C%3A/Users/Marketing/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/KDQ2GMKP/bhines%40venicechamber.com).
5. Applications must be submitted by September 5, 2025

Mail application to:

Barbara Hines

Venice Area Chamber of Commerce

597 S Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL 34285 or email to: bhines@venicechamber.com

 **CLASS OF 2026 APPLICATION**

**Personal Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 First MI Last

Preferred name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Street City Zip

Home telephone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cellphone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_School\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Teen Leadership Information**

How did you find out about Teen Leadership Venice? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Principal Permission Form: The** Principal Permission form must be completed by the school principal. The student understands that they must follow the school protocol for absences and must advise the school prior to each absence.

Please respond to the following questions and attach your completed essays to your application. These essays are an important part of the application.

1. **Leadership**

Describe what it takes to be a leader and provide an example of when you demonstrated one or more of these skills. (Maximum one page, double spaced)

1. **Perseverance**

Every obstacle we face in life comes with an opportunity to learn something new. Describe a challenge that you have faced, how you persevered and what you learned from the experience. (Maximum half page, double spaced)

1. **Future**

What do you see yourself doing in 10 years? (Maximum half page, double spaced)

**Parent/Guardian Permission**

If accepted, my son/daughter has permission to participate in this program. I understand this includes the Saturday orientation and the scheduled program days.

I understand that the principal of the high school must approve the students’ participation and the student must follow school protocol for their absences.

I also give my permission for my son/daughter’s photo to be used on the Venice Chamber website and in marketing materials.

**Class Schedule**

**September 20,** Orientation (9:00 AM – 12:00)

**October 14**, Arts & Culture Day

**November 18**, Health & Human Services Day

**December 9**, Community Awareness Day

**January 13**, Law Enforcement Day

**February 10**, Commerce & Industry Day

**March 10**, Venice History Day

**April 7**, Graduation, **5:30 PM**

**All Classes are 1:00 – 5:00 unless otherwise noted.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent/guardian (please print) Parent email

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature

**Student Agreement**

I certify that the answers given herein are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I am a high school student who is in 9th – 12th grade in the 2025-2026 academic year.

**Attendance**

If selected, I commit to attending the opening orientation and all subsequent sessions. I understand the fee to participate is $50. The fee is totally refundable if the student completely attends all sessions. (Student must arrive on time and leave at the designated dismissal time.) 100% attendance by each participant is expected. Two excused absences will be allowed if prior permission is received by the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce. (Any absence voids the refundable fee.)

**Photograph Release**

I give permission for my photograph to be used on the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce website and in any Venice Area Chamber of Commerce marketing materials.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of applicant (please print) Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of applicant

**ALL COMPLETED APPLICATION MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE CHAMBER BY September 5, 2025.**

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**CLASS OF 2026 COMMUNITY REFERENCE**

**Part 1: Completed by the Applicant**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 First MI Last

I understand that the information provided by the reference will be kept confidential and will not be divulged to me at any time.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of applicant Date

**Part II: Completed by Community Reference (not a teacher, parent or relative)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Relation to Student \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The above student is an applicant for the Teen Leadership program. The program is designed to enhance the knowledge of and develop leadership skills in a diverse group of high school juniors the empower and motivate them to become involved and committed to their community. The sessions feature a lively combination of speakers, small group experiences and tours.

1. How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Give examples of the applicant’s primary talents or strengths. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What would this student contribute to the program? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Why is this opportunity important for the student? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Signature Date

Please submit this form by September 5, 2025, to Barbara Hines, Venice Area Chamber of Commerce, 597 S Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL 34285, or email to bhines@venicechamber.com. **DO NOT RETURN TO THE APPLICANT.**

** CLASS OF 2026 PRINCIPAL PERMISSION**

**To be completed by the School Principal**

All applicants must have approval from their school principal to attend the sessions of the Teen Leadership program.

I approve of the participation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Student name) in the Teen Leadership program for 2025-2026. The student meets the criteria of being academically sound and in good standing. I hereby approve the program days as absences per school protocol.

Principal Name (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Principal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please submit this form by September 5, 2025, to:**

Barbara Hines, Venice Area Chamber of Commerce, 597 S Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL 34285, or email to bhines@venicechamber.com.

Any questions may be directed to Barbara Hines, Leadership Venice Director, direct line 941.800.1482.