



LEAD Atlanta

Class of 2023 Candidate Information Packet

Overview

LEAD Atlanta is an intensive seven-month leadership development and community education program targeted at promising young professionals between the ages of 27 and 34 in Metro Atlanta. (*The applicant must be no younger than 27 and no older than 34 on September 1, 2022.*) Through personal and professional development and broad exposure to the community, LEAD Atlanta aims to equip young leaders early in their careers with the skills and knowledge needed to be an effective leader committed to the common good. Established in 2004 as an initiative of Leadership Atlanta, the program is distinguished by its unique integration of personal, professional, and community education.

LEAD Atlanta boasts a diverse roster of accomplished alumni. These young leaders, and all who follow their example, represent the next generation of metro Atlanta's leaders.

LEAD Atlanta Class of 2023 applications are due on February 21, 2022. See below for further details.

Why Apply?

Today it seems everyone talks about leadership— but how do you really accomplish it?

If you are a young professional between the ages of 27 and 34 and have been asking yourself this question, you are not alone. Other talented individuals across metro Atlanta have been asking themselves the same question. (If you are not within this age range, you might be interested in our signature, executive-level program, Leadership Atlanta.)

Through its intensive seven-month program, LEAD Atlanta aims to help you answer this and other similar questions through the provision of several key learning areas, including:

- Leadership skill development
- Candid conversations with distinguished regional leaders
- Behind-the-scenes access to metro Atlanta's critical services and diverse communities
- In-depth examination of fundamental social issues
- Personal growth and self-assessment
- Relationships with a diverse group of your peers, metro Atlanta's other emerging leaders

All this adds up to a transformative experience for you and for the community!

The Class Year

We choose approximately 50 high-potential young leaders each year to represent a broad cross-section of metro Atlanta. Through retreats, full-day seminars, service projects, mentorship, and community immersion activities, members explore critical community issues, examine themselves as leaders and build relationships of trust and mutual understanding. Each class year's programming is created and executed by a dedicated team of numerous LEAD Atlanta alumni volunteers, under the direction of the

organization's staff. Each of these volunteers donates his/her time, experience, and expertise in order to create the best possible experience for you.

The Program Calendar

The 2023 LEAD Atlanta program is an opportunity for class members to deepen their knowledge of themselves, each other, and the metro Atlanta community. Like other regions, Atlanta is facing critical economic, environmental, and social issues that require regional, state, and national leaders of all levels to work together. By the end of the program year, class members will have a more insightful perspective of the significant issues facing our community and how they may affect those concerns through their leadership and service.

Programs are as follows:

Orientation

Tuesday, July 12, 2022, 5:00pm – 6:00pm

Meet-and-Greet Mixer

Tuesday, August 16, 2022, 5:30 pm-8:00 pm

Opening Retreat

7:30 am, Friday, September 9 – 12:00 pm, Saturday, September 10, 2022

This is a mandatory program. Overnight stay on Friday is required.

Racial Equality & Inclusion Workshop

Wednesday, October 20, 2022, 8:00 am-5:00 pm

This is a mandatory program.

Leadership Skills Day

Thursday, November 10, 2022, 8:00 am-5:00 pm

Immersion Activities

October 2022-March 2023

"Behind-the-scenes" experiences in the Metro Atlanta community. Various activities scheduled; minimum one required.

Community Issues Day One

Thursday, January 26, 2023, 8:00 am-5:00 pm

Community Issues Day Two

Thursday, February 23, 2023, 8:00 am-5:00 pm

Closing Program

Friday, March 17, 2021, 12:00 pm-8:30 pm

This is a mandatory program.

Program Hold Date*

Thursday, March 2, 2023, 8:00 am-5:00 pm

**In the event that a previously scheduled program day must be canceled (due to extreme weather, extenuating circumstances, etc.), that program will be rescheduled for this date. We suggest you tentatively mark this date on your calendars. Attendance will be strongly encouraged.*

Other Program Components

Cohort Projects

Each LEAD Atlanta member will be assigned to a cohort group, and each cohort will receive a community project to complete before the Closing Program. Cohort assignments and project details will be provided at the Opening Retreat. Active participation in cohort projects is required. These projects are designed to require approximately 20-30 hours of time from September-March.

Mentoring

Each LEAD Atlanta member will have the opportunity to be assigned a professional mentor who is a Leadership Atlanta alumnus.

Social Activities

Throughout the LEAD Atlanta program year, you will be encouraged to participate in social activities planned by LEAD Atlanta alumni or fellow class members. Examples include: happy hours, dinners in each other's homes, cultural events, etc.

Cost

Tuition for the LEAD Atlanta program is \$2,000.

Limited partial scholarships are available for those participants with demonstrated financial need. To be considered for a partial scholarship, applicants must indicate their interest by checking the "partial scholarship request" checkbox on their application forms.

Those applicants who requested scholarship consideration and who are accepted into the LEAD Atlanta program will complete additional scholarship application forms after selections. These forms will request details of your financial constraints and personal circumstances. You will be notified of any scholarship decisions before tuition payment is due.

Time Commitment

The program year spans a seven-month time frame. Included are an overnight opening retreat, a inclusive leadership workshop, and a full-day closing program. These components are mandatory for all participants.

In addition, LEAD Atlanta hosts substantive program days focusing on key leadership and community topics. Class members also participate in a service-learning cohort project that spans the nine-month period.

LEAD Atlanta members are allowed one absence from non-mandatory programs.

Selections Criteria, Process, and Timeline

Selections Criteria

The application process aims to assess candidates along multiple dimensions, including but not limited to professional accomplishments, community involvement, volunteer service, leadership potential, intellectual curiosity and willingness to grow. The selection committee evaluates applicants with the following questions in mind.

- Is the candidate between 27 and 34 years old?
- Has he/she demonstrated some kind of impact within his/her chosen profession?

- Does the candidate regularly participate in volunteer service?
- Does he/she show commitment to the community?
- Is the candidate willing to self-reflect and grow personally?
- Does he/she have the potential to affect change now and in the future?
- Does the candidate represent and/or embrace some form of diversity, whether ethnic, ideological, spiritual, sexual, political, cultural, etc.?
- Does he/she live within the metro Atlanta area?

Please note that while each of the above questions is used as criteria when evaluating applicants, excellent candidates do not necessarily possess each and every qualification sought. A person's potential for growth and for community impact, both now and in the future, is most important.

Selections Process

We utilize a combination of written applications, face-to-face interviews, and professional recommendations to evaluate candidates. A selections committee composed of LEAD Atlanta alumni evaluates and chooses the members of each class. The application process occurs in two phases. First, each judge reads every application, scoring each one according to a standard rubric. Then the committee gathers and chooses which candidates will advance to Phase II, the Interview Process.

If selected for an interview, a candidate is considered a finalist for membership. One-on-one, face-to-face interviews are conducted by various alumni of LEAD Atlanta. These interviewers submit quantitative and qualitative evaluations of their candidate(s), which are then compiled with the selection committee members' scores. Finalists also are asked to submit recommendation forms completed by their professional supervisors. Finally, the committee meets in a closed-door session to determine the final class list. Classes may vary in size from 50-55 members. Our participants' diversity, leadership, community commitment and will to learn are the primary strengths of the LEAD Atlanta program. This cross-section of top-quality nominees represents our area's public and private sectors as well as civic and community organizations.

Each year, five-six alumni comprise the selection committee, which carefully reviews all submitted applications.

Class of 2023 Selections Timeline

Applications Available Online – by January 21, 2022

Applications Due – February 21, 2022

Finalists Notified for Interviews – April 4, 2022

Class of 2023 Announced – May 27, 2022

Other Questions?

We are happy to answer any additional questions you may have. Please email:

LEAD Atlanta

LEADAtlanta@LeadershipAtlanta.org

(404) 876-4770, ext. 1030