Overview

Leadership Atlanta (Atlanta Leadership Development Foundation, Inc.) is the oldest continuously running training program of its type in the country. It was formed by a group of concerned citizens over four decades ago to address the growing need for a trained cadre of committed young leaders. The Atlanta Chamber of Commerce selected the first class in the summer of 1969 and in the spring of 1970, 46 leaders and future leaders of Atlanta graduated from the nine-month program. Among the class members were a future U.S. Senator, several corporate CEOs, judicial and civil rights leaders, and many committed business leaders and community volunteers.

While much has changed over the years, the idea of selecting leaders for a rigorous, interactive curriculum to be engaged in all aspects of the Atlanta community remains the foundation on which forty-four successful Leadership Atlanta classes have been built. Since 1969, over 3,000 men and women, selected from Metro Atlanta counties and representing the diversity of our community, have completed this program and have taken their place as leaders in the community. There are now over 1,000 leadership development programs in the United States, many of which were modeled after Leadership Atlanta.

The true impact of Leadership Atlanta is hard to measure. Many of Metro Atlanta’s most influential CEOs, educators, judges, elected officials, entrepreneurs, community organizers, non-profit leaders, and professionals are graduates of the program. Leadership Atlanta alumni hold key volunteer leadership roles throughout our community. Through its network of alumni, Leadership Atlanta has been an instrument of positive change. More than forty years after its founding, Leadership Atlanta adheres to the same principles and values that were established at its founding.

Leadership Atlanta Class of 2016 applications are due on January 9, 2015.

The Class Year

The core of Leadership Atlanta's programming is our signature nine-month, executive-level series. We choose approximately 80 established leaders each year to represent a broad cross-section of metro Atlanta. Through retreats, full-day seminars, service projects, discussion groups and community tours, 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 hundreds of Leadership 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 2016 Leadership Atlanta program is an opportunity for class members to deepen their knowledge of critical community issues, challenge themselves and their own assumptions, refine their leadership skills, and learn from one another. Like other cities, 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, June 9, 2015, 3:00-6:00 pm

Opening Retreat
7:30 am, Friday, August 28-12:15 pm, Sunday, August 30, 2015
Camp Twin Lakes, Rutledge, GA
Overnight Stay is required Friday and Saturday.

Race Awareness Workshop
Group 1: 7:30 am-5:30 pm, Friday, October 2, and 7:30 am-5:00 pm Saturday, October 3, 2015

Group 2: 7:30 am-5:30 pm, Friday, October 9, and 7:30 am-5:00 pm Saturday, October 10, 2015

Based on your stated preference, you will be assigned to one of these two groups.
There will be no overnight stay.

Criminal Justice and Public Safety Day
Thursday, November 5, 2015, 7:30 am-5:00 pm

Education Day
Thursday, December 3, 2015, 7:30 am-5:00 pm

Health Day
Thursday, January 14, 2016, 7:30 am-5:00 pm

Regional and Community Issues Day
Thursday, February 11, 2015, 7:30 am-5:00 pm

Power, Influence, and Leadership Day
Thursday, March 17, 2015, 7:30 am-5:00 pm

Hot Topics Day*
Thursday, March 31, 2016, 7:30 am-1:00 pm

Closing Retreat
10:00 am, Sunday, April 17 -- 12:30 pm, Monday, April 18, 2016
Chateau Élan, Braselton, GA
Overnight stay is required.

Make-Up Day**
Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 7:30 am-5:00 pm
*Class members will be given the opportunity to plan their own “Mini-Program Day,” focused on the topics and issues in which they are most interested as a class. Class members will self-select their own planning committee, and Leadership Atlanta staff will support them in their planning.

**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 Required Program Components:*

**Study Groups**
The class is divided into Study Groups. Each group will set its own meeting dates during the Opening Retreat. Meetings are opportunities to discuss the program topics in-depth, in an intimate setting. They will be once per month, in the evenings, in group members' homes.

*Community Leadership Projects*
Each class members will be assigned to a service learning project group. Each group will work on its own, with an assigned nonprofit organization, to complete a specified project. Project assignments and details will be provided at the Opening Retreat. Group projects are a key component of the program year. Projects are designed to require approximately 16 hours of time. Final project reports are required at the Closing Retreat.

*Additional Activities*
Throughout the year, additional activities will be made available to you. There will be an opportunity to ride-along with an Atlanta police officer or observe a 911 operator. A series of "CEO Roundtables" will also be offered. These roundtables are intimate, off-the-record conversations with Atlanta’s most prominent local CEOs, politicians, and other leaders. You are strongly encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities.

*Costs*
Tuition for the Leadership Atlanta program is $4,500. An application fee of $75 is required per completed application.

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 Leadership 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 nine-month time frame. Included are an overnight opening retreat, a two-day Race Awareness Workshop, and an overnight closing retreat. Each of these components is mandatory for all participants. In addition, Leadership Atlanta hosts substantive program days focusing on key leadership and community topics. Class members participate in small discussion group meetings, “Study Groups,” after each program day, and they also participate in a service learning project that spans the nine-month period.

Leadership Atlanta members are allowed two absences from non-mandatory programs and Study Group meetings.
Selections Criteria and Process
Our participants' diversity, leadership, community commitment and will to learn are the primary strengths of the Leadership 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, six alumni comprise the selection committee, which carefully reviews all submitted applications.

The committee looks for applicants who:
- Hold positions of leadership in their employment or volunteer organization.
- Display evidence of mature judgment and exceptional leadership qualities.
- Have demonstrated a strong interest in and commitment to the community through significant voluntary leadership roles in community organizations.
- Are most qualified to utilize their leadership skills through community service for the long-term benefit of the community.
- Have obvious potential for growing personally and effecting change.
- Are willing to commit the time and energy necessary to complete the program.

Other considerations:
- We are anxious to have participants from the entire metro area.
- We seek a class that reflects the diversity of the metro area.
- We seek representatives from business, government, non-profit and volunteer sectors.
- There are no age restrictions or limitations.
- Tenure in Atlanta is not necessarily a factor. Potential for impact on Atlanta now and in the future is more important. Community service in other communities is considered in the selection process.

Selections Process
Leadership Atlanta Class of 2016 applications are due on Friday, January 9, 2015. We select our classes through a combination of written applications and face-to-face interviews to evaluate candidates. A selections committee composed of a diverse cross-section of Leadership Atlanta alumni evaluates and chooses the members of each class. This committee remains anonymous until the final class is announced in late spring 2015.

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 Leadership Atlanta. These interviewers submit quantitative and qualitative evaluations of their candidate(s), which are then compiled with the selection committee members’ scores. Finally, the committee meets in a closed-door session to determine the final class list. Classes may vary in size from 70-85 members.
Other Questions?
We are happy to answer any additional questions you may have. Please call or email one of the following staff members.

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*Sandra coordinates the Leadership Atlanta applications process.