



Class 3 - Program Overview

Youth Leadership Winter Haven is designed as an opportunity to give local students a deeper understanding of all that Winter Haven has to

offer. Students will spend the year touring our community while learning about its strengths, challenges, and opportunities! Class members will be exposed to influential business leaders and young professionals from across the Winter Haven area and have opportunities to explore careers, ask questions of industry professionals and discover the spirit of collaboration that makes Winter Haven a great place to live, work, learn and play. Interested candidates must be sophomores (10th grade) or juniors (11th grade) with a 3.0 GPA and live in or attend school in the Winter Haven area.

Application Process

The application will be open and available for student to apply through Friday, August 30, 2024 at 5:00 PM. The application can be accessed at <https://www.winterhavenchamber.com/ylwh>. The application will require you to upload the Application Agreement with signatures from the student, parent/guardian, and a designated school representative. Students for the program will be selected based on a combination of their application and interview.

Interviews

We will conduct interviews in early September. If selected for an interview, applicants will be contacted with their interview time no later than Friday, August 30th. Interviews will be held on campus during the school day for schools located in Winter Haven. Interviews for students who live in Winter Haven but attend school outside of the Winter Haven area will be held at the Winter Haven Chamber after school hours. Interviews will last 10-15 minutes and give us an opportunity to get to know interested students.

Class Sessions

Monday, October 7, 2024 - Opening Retreat (*required for graduation)

Monday, November 4, 2024 - City Day

Monday, December 2, 2024 - Ag, Industry & Construction

Monday, January 13, 2025 - Arts, Culture & Tourism

Monday, February 3, 2025 - Education

Monday, March 10, 2025 - County Day

Monday, April 7, 2025 - Health & Social Services

Monday, May 5, 2025 - Finance & Tech/Graduation

Each day the session will run from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We will begin and end our days at the Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce (401 Ave B NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881). Each day session introduces participants to a variety of job opportunities and businesses in the area. Each session will include interacting with community leaders pertaining to the day's industries and allowing for students to have meaningful discussions with local industry leaders. Students are required to attend

the Opening Retreat and at least 6 of the 7 class days in order to graduate. Leaving early or arriving late for a class day will constitute as an absence. Students are expected to provide their own transportation to and from the Winter Haven Chamber at the start and conclusion of each day. If transportation may be an issue, please let us know on your application and we will do our best to assist. We do not want transportation to be a barrier for any student interested in participating.

Graduation (*required for completing the program)

At the conclusion of our year, we will be celebrating our program with graduation on the evening of Monday, May 13, 2024 for all students who have successfully completed the expectations of the program. Students will have the opportunity to invite their cheerleaders to celebrate with them.



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