



Class I - 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 **Monday, September 12, 2022 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 mid-September. Applicants will be contacted with their interview time no later than **Tuesday, September 13th**. 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

October 10, 2022 – Opening Retreat (*required for graduation)
November 14, 2022 – City Day
December 12, 2022 – County Day
January 9, 2023 – Arts, Culture & Tourism Day
February 13, 2023 – Education Day
March 20, 2023 – Agriculture, Construction & Light Industry Day
April 10, 2023 – Community Health & Social Services Day
May 8, 2023 – Finance & Tech Day

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 Greater 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.

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 Dinner (*required for graduation)

At the conclusion of our year, we will be celebrating our program with graduation on the evening of **Monday, May 8, 2023** 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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