



Youth Leadership Columbia County

Class of 2010

MISSION

The mission of Youth Leadership Columbia County is to educate through experience and motivate young leaders and enable them to take an active role in their community. This will result in strong leaders who have hope for the future and the tools to influence a positive and progressive community.

GOALS

The goal of Youth Leadership Columbia County is to:

- Identify and educate potential, emerging, and existing youth leaders.
- Present in-depth programs that acquaint participants with community needs, issues and resources.
- Allow interaction with community leaders and decision makers.
- Teach students the positive values and benefits of community service.
- Encourage students to actively engage in making their community a better place to live.
- Enhance civic pride and patriotism in our county, state and country.
- Provide opportunities for students from different geographic areas to know one another and develop a level of mutual trust and respect.

SELECTION PROCESS

1. Participants in Youth Leadership Columbia County will be members of the sophomore and junior classes of educational institutions in Columbia County or a resident of Columbia County. Participants are selected after consideration of their recognized and potential leadership and the merit of their application. The Selection Committee strives to achieve a geographical, racial and socio-economic balance in their selections.
2. The application, applicable signatures, and reference forms must be received by **5:00, Thursday, April 2, 2009** at the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, 4424 Evans to Locks Road, Evans. Materials include application, signatures by principal and parent/guardian and two reference forms. Entire application should fit in a manila envelope: Do not fold or staple applications.
3. The Selection Committee will review only completed applications submitted by the deadline; applicants selected to move forward to the interview phase will be notified of interview dates. Applicants not chosen to move forward will receive a letter on or before Friday, April 17, 2009. **NOT ALL APPLICANTS WILL BE SELECTED FOR AN INTERVIEW**
4. **Dress Code for Interviews is Business Attire (Coat & Tie – Men); (Dresses, Skirt or Slacks & Blouse – Ladies)**
5. **DO NOT USE ADDITIONAL PAGES.** The application form will be the only information considered.

All Applicants will be notified of selection by mid May.

SELECTION CRITERIA

All class members will be selected by the Youth Leadership Committee.

The Committee shall target individuals:

- with a sincere commitment, motivation and interest to serve in the community
- who are interested in seeking, or intending to seek, public office, boards, commissions, or key volunteer leadership roles in the future
- who seek potential opportunities for advancement to top leadership positions in their schools
- with the potential to remain in the Columbia County area
- who represent all segments of the community
- with demonstrated leadership qualities or potential for development of those qualities

ATTENDANCE POLICY

1. **ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED AT ALL SESSIONS.**
2. If an emergency arises, a written request must be submitted to the Youth Leadership Committee for consideration as to whether the absence is excused.
3. The Columbia County Superintendent has approved any YL school day session as an “excused absence”. * **HOWEVER, PRIOR APPROVAL IS REQUIRED AND STUDENTS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY MISSED WORK.**

CODE OF CONDUCT

All class members will be expected to follow guidelines of behaviors outlined in their respective school's code of conduct policies. Failure to display model citizenship or to uphold codes of conduct as a member of the Youth Leadership Program may be cause for immediate dismissal from the Youth Leadership Program as determined by the Youth Leadership Board of Directors.

TUITION

Tuition for the Youth Leadership Columbia County program is \$100.00 and is the responsibility of the applicant. Applicants are encouraged to seek sponsorships. Check is to be made payable to the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce and is due no later than Tuesday, June 30, 2009. Scholarships are available.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

All class members are required to participate in 20 hours of community service. Saturday and/or evening activities may be necessary. Complete requirements will be discussed at Orientation.

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, April 2, 2009	Application Deadline	5:00 p.m.	Columbia County Chamber Office
Monday, April 21, 2009	Interviews	3:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Columbia County Chamber Office
Tuesday, April 22, 2009	Interviews	3:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Columbia County Chamber Office
Wednesday, April 23, 2009*	Interviews	3:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Columbia County Chamber Office
Thursday, August 20, 2009	Orientation	7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Columbia County Board of Education
Thursday, April 15, 2010	Graduation (Tentative)	6:30 p.m.	TBA

*if needed by committee.

SCHEDULE

Students selected to the Youth Leadership program will be expected to attend all sessions and complete community service requirements. The tentative schedule is as follows:

SESSIONS (* Order of sessions and times are subject to change)

Saturday, August 22, 2009

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Ropes (MANDATORY) – Bond with classmates through trust exercises and other low impact activities.

Thursday, September 10, 2009

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

History – Learn the history of Columbia County and the Augusta Metropolitan area.

Thursday, October 8, 2009

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Law Enforcement – Learn about the justice system.

Thursday, November 5, 2009

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Business & Industry – Tour area businesses and industries and learn what it takes to be an entrepreneur.

Thursday, December 3, 2009

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Healthcare – Learn about the importance of healthcare and the array of employment opportunities.

Thursday, January 14, 2010

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Media & Community Service – Become familiar with the variety of media and community services in our community.

Thursday, February 11, 2010

6:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Government & Education – Learn about state and local government & how it relates to education.

Thursday, March 11, 2010

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Arts, Culture and Diversity – Learn about the different cultures within our community and have one on one discussions with artists in the area.



Youth Leadership Columbia County

Parent and principal permission form

Please type or print application in ink. Complete all information using this form ONLY.
Return completed application in large manila envelope: Do not fold or staple.

(Name) Last	First	Preferred First Name	Middle	
Address		City	State	Zip
Home Phone	e-mail address	High School NEXT Year	Grade Next Year	
Parent/Legal Guardian	Business Phone Number	Alternate Phone Number		

If selected, you commit to attend the program orientation, each of the eight program sessions and graduation. Full attendance by each participant is mandatory if YLCC is to meet its objectives.

I understand and accept the attendance requirements for Youth Leadership Columbia County

Student Signature _____ Date _____

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PARENT PERMISSION

I am the parent/legal guardian of _____ (student name). I have read the information on the Youth Leadership Columbia County program and am willing to have my child participate. ***I understand that participation at all sessions and retreats is mandatory.***

Youth Leadership Columbia County, its agents and its employees have my full permission and consent to transport and otherwise provide transportation for my child by public service bus, private automobile, vans or other appropriate means of transportation in connection with all sessions of Youth Leadership Columbia County during the school year in which he/she is a participant.

I hereby release and hold harmless: Youth Leadership Columbia County and Columbia County Chamber of Commerce; its members, agents and employees; or any individuals involved in the planning, organization or presentation of Youth Leadership Columbia County programming, for any accident, injury, illness or any damage whatsoever related to the above-mentioned student's attendance at or participation in any activity or session of Youth Leadership Columbia County.

Parent 1 (legal guardian)	Signature	Place of Employment	Business Phone#
Parent 2 (legal guardian)	Signature	Place of Employment	Business Phone#

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SCHOOL SYSTEM APPROVAL

All applicants MUST have the approval of their school principal to attend the seven mandatory sessions of Youth Leadership Columbia County being held during school hours. Please have your principal sign below.

I approve of the participation of _____ (student name) in the Youth Leadership Columbia County Class of 2008-2009.
This student is in good academic standing.

Principal name (please print)	School	Phone
Signature of principal	Date	



Youth Leadership Columbia County

Confidential Application

How did you find out about Youth Leadership Columbia County?

- Youth Leadership graduate
- Friend
- Teacher
- Counselor
- Paper
- Parent
- Website
- Recruitment poster

Name four characteristics you value in other people.

If you could spend a day with a current world leader (not the president), artist, or sports star, who would you choose and why?

Describe a special gift or talent you have.

How can you be a role model for your community?

Describe a time when your actions positively impacted a person, your school, or your neighborhood?

If you could change anything about your school or community, what would it be and why?

What do you believe is the role and responsibility of a community leader?

List no more than three (3) activities in which you have participated during the last two years.

NAME OF COMMUNITY SERVICE/SCHOOL /CLUB /ORG / SPORT	WHEN INVOLVED	WHAT WAS YOUR ROLE?
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____



Youth Leadership Columbia County

REFERENCE FORM #1

TO THE REFERENCE: The student who submitted the reference form to you is an applicant for the Youth Leadership Columbia County program. It is an interactive, hands-on experience with the community, aimed at youth who are beginning to show leadership potential and an interest in the community. The Selection Committee attaches considerable weight to the statements made by the references of the applicant. The committee is aware of the time necessary to prepare such an assessment and gratefully acknowledges your help.

Please type or print. Use this form on this side only. Applications will be reviewed in confidence.

Name of reference (*please print*) Signature

Position/title school /business / religious group / organization

Home phone work phone

Address city zip

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- 1 For how long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

 - 2 Tell us something you find unique about the applicant.

 - 3 How will the applicant enhance Youth leadership?

 - 4 What are the first three (3) words that come to mind in describing the applicant? (Limit 3 words)

 - 5 What else would you like to say about the applicant?

 - 6 How will this program be beneficial to the applicant?

Return to the student in a sealed envelope.

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