



# LEADERSHIP WATERTOWN PROGRAM FOR 2026 -2027

## A Movement to Empower Individuals to Become Community Leaders

Leadership Watertown strives to develop a corps of informed, committed, and qualified individuals capable of and willing to provide dynamic leadership in the Watertown area.

- Program has been made possible by the Watertown Area Chamber of Commerce since 1997
- This is a “uniquely Watertown” program providing leadership training and project management experiences
- Offers a “behind the scenes” view of Watertown
- Employee strengthening provided through opening partnerships with prominent community mentors
- Initiates networking with other local business leaders
- Exclusive leadership building activities, including an outreach project, obstacle course, police day drills, and community service opportunities
- The 2025-2026 class will help you serve the community in an area that most interests you!

The following materials will give you an overview of the program and the topics which are covered.



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## THE AMBITIONS OF LEADERSHIP WATERTOWN

- Identifies candidates for the Watertown Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors as well as other chamber committees and civic organizations.
- Educates participants regarding the opportunities and needs of the Watertown community.
- Counsels participants about project management and leadership skills with a focus on volunteering in community leadership positions.
- Builds relationships between classmates, community leaders, and the business community.
- Strengthens and enhances the quality of local leadership.

## EXCITING TOUR DAYS

- Team Building Day - Scavenger Hunt
- Foundation for the Future - History adventures
- Volunteer Connections
- Wheels on the Bus - Education in the area
- Partners in Crime - Police drills
- Taking Care of Business - Company tours
- Healthcare and Wellness Day
- City Government Day



## THE COMMITMENT OF YOUR VALUABLE TIME

Since Leadership Watertown is made up of a select group of individuals, attendance to all eight (8) sessions is crucial. Please consider the following time commitments and review the same with your employer.

Sept. - April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Wednesday of the month,  
8:30am to 4:00pm  
(Class sites move each month)

May

Project Planning (Group project workday)

June 10, 2026

Graduation - Wednesday afternoon,  
(Venue chosen based on project)

\*\*\* To accommodate the topic presented, sessions are sometimes moved to another time or day. \*\*\*

## **What are the time requirements of Leadership Watertown?**

Participants will attend eight (8) sessions from September to May, typically held on the second Wednesday of each month. The May session is reserved for project work, and the best time for this session will be determined later in the year. The culminating event is a graduation program in June.

## **What if I am unsure if I can commit to attending all Leadership Watertown sessions?**

As a Leadership Watertown student, your attendance and participation are critical to your success, and affect the success of other students as well as the program itself. If you have doubt whether you can fully commit to the program, we ask that you consider participating at a later time, when your schedule allows.

## **What does Graduation Day consist of?**

On graduation day students discuss their project with peers, employers, Chamber Board Members, and other interested parties, giving a brief summary of what they learned from being a part of Leadership Watertown.

## **What is required to graduate from Leadership Watertown?**

All participants of the program are required to attend 100% of class sessions as described in the Leadership Watertown application. Participants are also expected to commit to all outside project meetings as determined by their project team.

## **If a student misses any class or project time, the Leadership Board will determine whether he/she fulfills the requirements for graduation. What happens after graduation?**

Attendance/Participation is meant to develop your personal leadership and project management skills for the benefit of your employer as well as for personal endeavors. In addition, it is our hope that after graduation, participants are aware of volunteer opportunities in the city. An option to serve on the Leadership Board is open to those wishing to continue their association with Leadership Watertown.

## **Who is eligible to participate in Leadership Watertown and how are they selected?**

Any person in the Watertown area and possessing an interest in the objectives of Leadership Watertown is eligible to participate.

## **What is the program format of Leadership Watertown?**

Leadership Watertown is divided into two segments:

**Class Time** - Monthly book discussions, speakers, demonstrations, and tours have been tailored, by the Leadership Watertown Board of Directors (Leadership BOD), to help familiarize you with many facets of the community. Class orientation includes a very popular and memorable team building obstacle course. Every effort will be made to offer accommodations, but there is a physical component to the class in which students will be asked to participate.

**Team Project** - The team(s) will work on a community service project, as determined by the Leadership BOD. The team(s) will have some class time to work on projects and may find it necessary to communicate outside of class. The project will require some fundraising on the part of the class. The Leadership BOD and chamber staff are available as resources during the entire project planning and project implementation process.

## **What does the program cost?**

Tuition is \$625.00 per participant for chamber members and \$875.00 for non-chamber members, which includes class day continental breakfast and lunch, speaker fees, orientation and graduation expenses.

## **What if I find I'm unable to participate in Leadership Watertown after my tuition is paid?**

Tuition may be refunded to a participant who notifies the Leadership BOD of their inability to participate before the first class session. Tuition refunds for any other reason shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Leadership BOD in accordance with the program's refund policy.

