



Leadership Southern Maryland

Regional Collaboration for Today's Leaders and Tomorrow's Vision

CLASS OF 2020 APPLICATION INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

Regional Collaboration for Today's Leaders and Tomorrow's Vision.

At Leadership Southern Maryland, we engage community partners in our region by bringing together local leaders from our three counties – Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's - people with a passion for making Southern Maryland the best place to live and work. Together, we inspire and engage our community leaders on the vital issues affecting our region and work to create opportunities for collaborations and partnerships to build and affect change.

Membership Process

Leaders become members through a highly competitive application, interview and selection process. Each year, as many as 35 diverse and accomplished leaders from around the region are selected based on their abilities, career accomplishments, volunteer activities, and their personal concern and commitment to help shape the future of Southern Maryland. Accepted applicants are required to participate in a nine-month study of the region and its counties. Through this uniquely interactive, non-partisan, educational experience, participants explore the issues, challenges and opportunities critical to Southern Maryland.

The Executive Program Year

The program is intense, and the results are rewarding. Leaders come together for a series of day-long experiences, intensive hands-on study, and in-depth discussions that highlight local and regional issues, including economic development, education, defense, public safety, healthcare, health and human services, multiculturalism / diversity, energy, and environment. Participants learn how interconnected the issues are and how they need to be addressed. The program changes yearly as it is continually evaluated and improved to keep up with current issues.

Program Year Goals

- To learn about the current and emerging issues facing Southern Maryland and its counties
- To explore through an experiential educational program, the region's opportunities, needs, and resources
- To engage in dialogue with classmates and other recognized leaders who share deeper insight and broad knowledge of the issues facing Southern Maryland
- To develop a network of relationships with a cross-section of leaders; a trusting circle of friends and colleagues
- To identify opportunities to improve the quality of life in Southern Maryland
- To examine the many dimensions and styles of leadership through exposure to various role models
- To go on an individual journey of transformation and growth
- To become a committed member of the Leadership Southern Maryland family beyond the program year
- To have amazing fun while learning!

Applicant Criteria

- Mid- to senior-level leaders with significant achievements in career and the volunteer community
- Expressed concern about the future of Southern Maryland and a personal commitment to help shape that future
- Expressed willingness to commit the time and energy necessary to complete the program
- Full support of funding organization or business
- Each class will reflect a cross-section of the region, to include diversity of geographic location, profession, ethnicity, age and gender
- A willingness to continue supporting the efforts of the organization after graduation
- Applicant must work or live in one of the three Southern Maryland counties – Calvert, Charles, or St. Mary's

Application Process

Visit www.leadershipsomd.org, click the "APPLY" tab at the top menu bar, and complete the online application form, which requires a nonrefundable application fee (personal check or VISA or MasterCard), one recommendation letter, an Authorizing Official Statement from your employer (unless you are self-employed or are your own supervisor), and a professional color photo. The application fee is \$250 through February 28, 2019. Beginning March 1, the application fee is \$300. Completed application and fee must be received **by 5:00 p.m. April 1, 2019**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Selection Process

Receipt of your completed application package (including letter of recommendation and official authorizing statement) will be acknowledged by email, at which time you will be asked to schedule your interview. Each application is reviewed, and each applicant is interviewed by members of the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee members come from a diverse and broad cross-section of our regional membership. Their task is significant, ensuring that each class reflects the diversity of the region in all of its aspects. Due to this diversity and the number of applications received, qualified individuals are not always accepted on their first attempt. Emphasis is also placed on your Volunteer Activities and Personal Statements requested on the application form. All applicants, selected or not, will be notified of their status by email in late June 2018.

Tuition

If selected, you will be invoiced for tuition, which covers all program expenses, excluding any overnight accommodations and personal transportation costs getting to the program locations. **Tuition is \$3,950**, when paid-in-full by check or \$4,250 when paid-in-full by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) by **August 15, 2019** (postmarked). If paid after August 15, 2019, tuition is \$4,250, and must be paid-in-full by check or credit card by **September 1, 2019** (postmarked). A payment plan may be arranged; however, the higher tuition amount of \$4,250 will apply. Payment plans may be arranged by calling the Leadership Southern Maryland office.

Tuition Assistance

Limited need-based scholarships are available and financial aid may be requested by applicants who would otherwise be unable to participate. Awards are based on your statement of need, the number of requests received, and the amount of funds available. However, requesting aid does not guarantee you will receive all or any of the amount requested. To be considered for financial assistance, please submit a statement of financial need to the LSM office at info@leadershipsomd.org. Please note that decisions on financial aid are independent of and made subsequent to the selection process.

Attendance Policy

The Orientation Retreat and the Energy/Environment sessions are two days long. All other sessions are one day and are held at different locations throughout the region. Each session typically begins at 7:30 a.m. and concludes by 5:00 p.m., with optional social events following. Participants must commit to attend all sessions, including the **mandatory** Orientation Retreat. Although 100% attendance is strongly encouraged, two **excused** absences are permitted (defined as two full one-day session, or four half days, or a total of 18 hours). Participants are encouraged to save allowed absences to deal with an unexpected illness or family/work emergencies. **Please block all session dates on your calendar.**

Class of 2020 Session Dates

September 9 & 10, 2019 - **MANDATORY** Orientation Retreat
October 3, 2019 - Economic & Workforce Development
November 7, 2019 – Defense & Industry
December 5, 2019 – Education
January 9, 2020 –Healthcare
February 6, 2020 – Public Safety
March 5, 2020 – Housing & Human Services
April 2, 2020 – Multiculturalism & Diversity
April 23 & 24, 2020 – Energy & Environment
May 7, 2020 – Closing Retreat & Graduation.

If the 2020 session dates do not work for your schedule, consider a future class year by checking on the website at www.leadershipsomd.org in January of next year.

COMPLETED APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

(All items must be received for the application to be considered complete)

- ✓ Application submitted online
- ✓ Select payment method for Application Fee (personal check or VISA or MasterCard)
- ✓ Statement of Financial Need (if requesting aid)
- ✓ One letter of recommendation
- ✓ Authorizing Official Statement from applicant's supervisor or CEO (unless you are self-employed or are your own supervisor)
- ✓ High quality professional color photo (head/shoulder shot, jpg or pdf preferred)
- ✓ Paid Application Fee (\$250 through February 28, \$300 beginning March 1) paid via personal check payable to Leadership Southern Maryland, P. O. Box 524, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or paid online with VISA or MasterCard during the application process
- ✓ Your **complete** application packet must be received **by 5:00 p.m., April 1, 2018.**