

Program Information...



Youth Leadership Rutherford is a selective civic education and engagement initiative for high school juniors and seniors in Rutherford County. It is directed by the Leadership Rutherford Chair, Executive Director, and Business Education Partnership (BEP) Executive Director. YLR is currently a private, not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) organization, existing solely on tuition, private donations and fundraising activities.

The program began as a project of the 1993-1994 Leadership Rutherford Education Study Group to encourage youth leaders to remain in Rutherford County by informing students of local opportunities. It became an officially sponsored activity of Leadership Rutherford in June 1994. The first class began in 1995, and in 2006 the Rutherford County Board of Education approved YLR students receiving half a credit on their high school transcripts in Leadership Studies.



Program Objectives

- ♦ To strengthen students' personal leadership skills
- ♦ To encourage community awareness
- ♦ To educate students about major challenges and opportunities facing Rutherford County
- ♦ To build future leaders in Rutherford County



...Program Content

Youth Leadership Rutherford consists of an overnight (Fri-Sat.) weekend orientation program in September, seven seminar days from October-April and graduation in May. Each day focuses on an area of community concern and explores issues of leadership within the context of that subject. The goal of each day is to open the minds of students to the viewpoints that surround each issue and enable young people to become more visionary leaders.

Students must attend the overnight weekend orientation program and all meetings to graduate. Group projects, individual projects, journals and other assignments are also requirements for graduation. The time commitment is mandatory to achieve a complete education in each subject area and is not negotiable.



Program Topics

Listed below are examples of program topics that will be covered during Youth Leadership Rutherford:

- ♦ Teamwork Skills
- ♦ Business and Economic Development
- ♦ Government
- ♦ Courts and Public Safety
- ♦ Industry and Agriculture
- ♦ Human Needs and Services
- ♦ Education
- ♦ Arts and Quality of Life
- ♦ Community Service

Mission : Youth Leadership Rutherford is a personal development program designed to educate and enhance the quality of leadership skills in juniors and seniors in high school while promoting community awareness.

Selection Information

Youth Leadership Rutherford actively recruits rising juniors and seniors from all high schools within Rutherford County. A maximum of 32 students will have the opportunity to participate in YLR each year. Participants are selected on their own merits through an application and interview process conducted by the Leadership Rutherford Council.

Criteria for selection include:

- ◆ High school junior or senior
- ◆ GPA of 2.75
- ◆ Demonstrated interest in leadership positions in school and/or community
- ◆ Desire for personal growth opportunities
- ◆ Commitment to completion of entire program

Tuition

The Youth Leadership Rutherford program tuition is \$200.00 per student. Tuition covers all costs of the program—meals, transportation, materials, etc.

Deadline for Applications

Applications may be obtained from school guidance offices or by calling the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce at (615) 893-6565. Applications are also available online at rutherfordbep.org/programs/youth-leadership-rutherford/index.php.

Completed applications must be received by the Leadership Rutherford or BEP office at the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce on or before February 6, 2009.

Youth Leadership Rutherford
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(615) 893-6565



2009-2010
Program