

WHAT IS LEADERSHIP SANTA ROSA?

Leadership Santa Rosa is a program of the Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce, launched in 1984-85 to prepare participants for leadership roles in the community. The program is directed by the Leadership Executive Committee with the aid of the Chamber staff.

In the program's instruction year from January through December, participants explore the issues, problems and opportunities facing Santa Rosa County and Northwest Florida today and in the future.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES?

- To identify and select leadership candidates from various geographic, ethnic, occupational, and economic segments in the community.
- To enhance the leadership skills of participants.
- To develop camaraderie and team spirit that will provide a common ground for working together on present and future community needs.
- To foster a high level of civic concern and increase community involvement by participants.

WHO PARTICIPATES?

Participation is open to all who live or work in Northwest Florida with a particular interest in Santa Rosa County.

WHAT IS THE COST?

Tuition for Leadership Santa Rosa participants is \$750. Many participants are sponsored by their companies or organizations. Payment (check/Visa/Discover/MasterCard) should be submitted with application - must be received no later than Orientation in December preceding your enrollment year.

HOW ARE THE PARTICIPANTS SELECTED?

Individuals, businesses, and community associations may nominate candidates for Leadership Santa Rosa by returning the nomination form on this brochure to the Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce office at 5247 Stewart Street, Milton, FL 32570. Individuals may also nominate themselves.

Nominations must be received by September 30th preceding the course year. Application forms are then sent to prospective participants. These forms must be returned to the Chamber office by October 31st.

A committee will select from among the applications a class of maximum 55 motivated individuals. These candidates must have a sincere desire to offer their time and talents to improving our community and Santa Rosa County.

WHAT IS THE PROGRAM?

The program begins with a general orientation in December, followed by a two-day required participation weekend retreat in January. Class sessions are held one day a month for nine months followed by a graduation ceremony in December.

During the two-day retreat, a simulated society is set up among participants to provide an intensive experience of social needs and issues.

WHAT HAPPENS EACH MONTH?

Monthly sessions are conducted by professionals and local leaders from business, civic, governmental, and academic areas who take part in informing and interfacing with Leadership Santa Rosa participants.

Sessions include lectures, simulations, group discussions, panel presentations, field trips, and community research projects.

One session provides philosophical and practical looks into our **local government** and **executive institutions**. Subsequent sessions study the impact of **military** on our community, **economic base** and **tax structures**, major **industries, businesses**, and **health and human services**. The **education** session surveys and evaluates local education resources, institutions, and funding.

Participants will look at the importance of **agriculture and farming** in our area as well as analyze present and future industry trends. **Tourism, recreational assets**, and the effect of the **media** on the region are also evaluated.

In another session, the **past, present and future** are discussed, concentrating on community growth and development from historical and visionary perspectives – the participants will determine their role in this future growth.

A field trip to Tallahassee provides a first-hand look at the **legislative process in action**.

WHAT ARE THE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS?

Participants **must** attend the two-day retreat (SimSoc) and cannot miss more than two of the monthly sessions.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

It has become a tradition for Leadership classes to be actively involved in our community through a charitable or social project during the class year.

Previous classes helped, for example, build or finance homes for Habitat for Humanity, held fundraisers for the Santa Rosa Veterans' Memorial Plaza, or participated in beautification efforts such as the Great American Clean-Up Day.