



Arts & Humanities Day

"Leadership Charlotte has been a wonderful learning and team-building experience. It combines opportunities to learn about the many facets of our community, network with new people, build lasting friendships, and work together to raise funds for organizations that make a difference in Charlotte County. I have met and grown to know so many wonderful people over the last 10 months. What began as a group of classmates quickly became a network of friends, colleagues, and community leaders who share a passion for making our community stronger. The relationships, experiences, and insights I've gained through this program will stay with me long after graduation, and I am grateful to have been part of such an inspiring class."

Suzie Smith, Punta Gorda Airport

Leadership Charlotte is an immersive, hands-on program designed to develop informed, engaged leaders who are passionate about making a difference in Charlotte County. Each year, 25 participants are selected to explore key community sectors, build meaningful connections, and apply their skills through a collaborative service project that creates lasting impact for a local cause.

"Being a part of the Leadership Charlotte program has been an amazing experience and one that I am proud to be a part of. It offers the opportunity to get an "inside look" at a variety of aspects of our community while meeting people that are instrumental and effective contributors to our area. I've been around the Leadership Charlotte program for many years having attended many events, etc. but am truly honored to now be a part of this premier program forever."

Jackie Thornberry,
Thornberry Custom Builders

To successfully complete the Leadership Charlotte program, participants must meet specific course requirements, including mandatory attendance at the Simulated Society session on Friday, October 16. Attendance at all monthly sessions is expected, with no more than two excused absences allowed in order to fulfill graduation criteria.



Government Day

"Leadership Charlotte Class of 2026 was an experience I'll never forget. It gave me a chance to meet an amazing group of people, learn more about our community, and build friendships that I know will last for years. My favorite days were Community Services and Education. Seeing firsthand the impact local organizations, schools, and community leaders have on Charlotte County was both eye-opening and inspiring. Those experiences gave me an even greater appreciation for the people who work every day to make our community a better place."

Aaron Bowles, Farr Law Firm

Leadership Charlotte, established in 1988, is a premier community leadership development program with over 900 alumni who remain actively engaged in driving positive changes throughout Charlotte County. Participants take part in monthly, full-day sessions that provide in-depth exposure to key sectors shaping our region, including government, education, healthcare, justice, the environment, agriculture, tourism, media, and more. The program cultivates informed, connected, and inspired leaders committed to serving and strengthening our community.

"Leadership Charlotte turned out to be so much more than I ever expected, and as we approach the finish line, I feel incredibly grateful for the experience. One of the greatest benefits has been the relationships. I've built meaningful connections with classmates who I know will remain longtime friends. I've also had the opportunity to connect with many members of the Charlotte County community – relationships and experiences that likely never would have happened without Leadership Charlotte. The program opened my eyes to the many outstanding things happening throughout our county across a wide range of industries, organizations, and causes that I previously knew little about."

Trae Christian, Elite Hurricane Protection

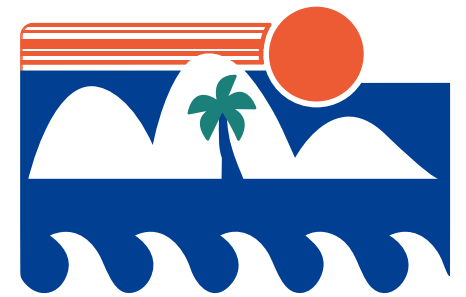


Local Economy Day

Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce

2702 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
941-627-2222

www.charlottecountychamber.org



LEADERSHIP
CHARLOTTE

CLASS OF
2027
APPLICATION

Premier program of
the Charlotte County
Chamber of Commerce



Leadership Charlotte Confidential Application

- *Class Size is limited to twenty-five applicants.*
- *Participants are selected through an anonymous process. Avoid revealing your identity through your answers to the questions.*

Please answer the following 8 questions in a thorough & comprehensive manner, as your answers will have a direct impact on your acceptance into the program. Please type your answers on a separate sheet of blank paper. Number your answers to correspond with the questions. Answers are required in a word document format if sent online.

"When I signed up for Leadership Charlotte, I came in expecting to learn about our community. What I didn't expect was the caliber of people I'd be doing it alongside. This class has given me relationships I know will last a lifetime. Beyond the connections, what really hit me was the sheer depth of what's happening in Charlotte County, the nonprofits, the businesses, the local government; there are passionate people building something real here, and LC26 put me right in the middle of it. If you're on the fence about applying, stop thinking and just do it!"
Jordan Aquila, Buffalo Graffix

- 1** Provide a Professional Biography of 50 words or less.
- 2** Please provide a brief overview of your background, including your employment history, education, extracurricular involvement, and any special interests or activities that are important to you.
- 3** How do you approach and manage disagreements or conflicts when collaborating with others?
- 4** What do you consider to be your most significant contribution or achievement in your professional career?
- 5** What strengths and qualifications do you bring that make you a strong candidate for the Leadership Charlotte program?
- 6** Describe your involvement in community service or volunteer work to date, and explain why these experiences hold personal significance for you.
- 7** Articulate your motivations for seeking participation in the Leadership Charlotte program, and identify the potential benefits your involvement could bring to the community.
- 8** Please identify a specific issue or problem you've observed within Charlotte County. In your response, propose a solution that you or the Leadership Charlotte class could implement as a class project to address this concern.

If I am selected:

- **I will devote the time and resources necessary to complete the program including the class project**
- **I understand the attendance requirement and mandatory SimSoc attendance**
- **Program participants must be members of the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce**
- **Membership Dues must be current**
- **Participants must have no more than two excused absences to be eligible for graduation**

If you are a political candidate, please apply next year when your campaign is complete.

The program fee is \$895 and is due upon acceptance. Half scholarships may be available. Please indicate your interest when applying. A nonrefundable \$50 application fee must accompany the application and will be credited toward the program fee if accepted.

Applicant's signature _____ Date _____

– Please print or type. –

Full Name _____ Nick Name _____

Employer _____

Title _____

Business Address _____

Business Phone _____

Email Address _____

Home Address _____

Cell Phone _____

Do you reside in Charlotte County? _____ If "yes," for how long? _____

Have you applied to Leadership Charlotte before? _____

The application deadline is 4:00 p.m., Monday, August 3, 2026. Return completed application and fee to:
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce, 2702 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, FL 33952, 941-627-2222.
Completed applications may be emailed to Stephanie Sarivannara at SSarivannara@CharlotteCountyChamber.org.