Leadership Missoula 41 Program Application

2025-2026

 Developing Missoula’s Leaders for 40 Years



 Shaping Missoula’s Future

Missoula is a dynamic and energetic community. Such vitality and growth present many opportunities and challenges for the citizens of Missoula. Keeping our community vibrant and healthy requires insightful leaders who have the ability to communicate and work effectively with others. LEADERSHIP MISSOULA is designed to facilitate the development and growth of tomorrow’s leaders, provide opportunities to interact with different community members while exploring issues relevant to our community.

**Leadership Missoula is a program of the Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce**

**GOALS OF LEADERSHIP MISSOULA**

**LEADERSHIP MISSOULA 41 SCHEDULE**

**Beginning Retreat – Double Arrow Lodge – Sunday/Monday – October 5th & 6th - 2025**

**Monthly Sessions from 7:30am – 5:00pm History & Culture Day**

*October 23, 2025*

**Business & Economy Day**

*November 6, 2025*

**Quality of Life Day**

*November 20,2025*

**Government & Politics Day**

*December 11, 2025*

**Human Needs Day**

*January 8, 2026*

**Workforce & Education Day**

*February 12, 2026*

**Natural Resources Day**

*March 12, 2026*

**Public Safety & First Responder Day**

*April 16, 2026*

 **Ending Retreat – Flathead Lake Lodge –**

 **Sunday/Monday - May 17th & 18th - 2026**

* To cultivate and motivate community leaders
* To acquaint participants with community needs and

problems, while offering alternatives for solutions

* To give participants an opportunity to meet community leaders, to associate in a meaningful way with their peers and to be motivated toward greater community involvement
* Introduce participants to leadership skills
* Building connections with fellow business professionals, networking, referring professionally, mentorship, personal and professional growth

**SELECTION, TUITION & SCHOLARSHIPS**

* Candidates will be selected with a goal of establishing a diverse mix of professions, activities, backgrounds

and perspectives.

**Class size is limited!**

* **Tuition:**
	+ **$2000 for Chamber Members**
	+ **$2,500 for Non-Chamber Members**

Tuition fee is payable upon acceptance in the program. This fee covers the costs of the beginning and ending retreats, individual session meals, materials and group transportation. **Tuition is non- refundable and must be paid in full by September 5, 2025.**

* + **Scholarships** may be available in a limited number and cover partial tuition fees. Typically, these are awarded to nonprofit organizations or individuals not affiliated with a business. Small businesses and entrepreneurs are encouraged to apply.

**APPLICATIONS DUE:**

* **Early deadline: prior to Friday, May 23, 2025**

**$50 non-refundable application fee**

* **Late deadline: after May 23, 2025**

**$60 non-refundable application fee PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

* Leadership Missoula participants will initiate their experience with a two-day, mandatory beginning retreat in

October. This is followed by eight all-day sessions held over the next several months and concludes with a two-day mandatory retreat in May.

* Two-year commitment: Graduates of the class will work together the following year to organize two session days each for the next Leadership Missoula class. ***Second year will include fundraising and professional speaking as well as organization of session days for the LM 41 class.***
* Participants may not be absent for more than 2.5 days total. Both the beginning and ending retreats are mandatory. Failure to meet mandatory retreat attendance and/or exceeding the 2.5 missed days will result in a failure to graduate. Class members who fail to meet the attendance requirements will not be invited to attend graduation, receive their plaque or LM pin and will not be allowed to participate in the planning of the session days with their fellow class members in year two.

**Application Form: Leadership Missoula 41**

Name: Title:

Business or Organization: Industry Sector: Gender: M F Age Group: 20-29 30-39 40-49 50+ Birth date: / /

Mo Day Yr

Business mailing address: Home mailing address:

Business phone: Cell phone: Email:

Name of Supervisor: Dietary restrictions/preferences:

# Tuition rate:

 **$2000 Chamber member $2500 Non-Chamber Member** (includes one year chamber **membership @ a Tier 1 level)**

Tuition paid by: Employer

 Self

 Employer & Self

 Other

***\*\*Tuition is non-refundable and must be paid in full by September 5, 2025\*\****

Deposit: A non-refundable $50 application fee must accompany all applications submitted on or before **Friday, May 23, 2025.** After that day, a $60 non-refundable application fee must accompany all applications**.**

Scholarships: Partial tuition scholarships may be offered depending on available funding. These are awarded based on the financial need of members of non-governmental nonprofit organizations or individuals not affiliated with a business, small business or entrepreneur. If you believe you would be eligible, please check below \*See top of back page for scholarship paragraph instructions.

# I will need a partial scholarship in the amount of $

**If not selected for a scholarship, please consider me a tuition-paying applicant: YES NO**

Who recommended this program to you?

A*ttendance Requirements: Acceptance into the Leadership Missoula 41 program includes a* ***two-year commitment.*** *The first year consists of a mandatory beginning and ending retreat and eight sessions, spanning from October through May.* ***Attendance at both retreats is mandatory. Participants are only allowed to miss 2½ days of the monthly sessions.***

*Anyone missing more than 2½ days of sessions (a ½ day absence is allowed only one time) will not be recognized as a Leadership Missoula graduate.* ***The second-year commitment*** *after graduation provides first hand leadership training as planners for the LM 42 session days. The second-year responsibility does not require attendance at each session day, only the two sessions you select to organize. The leadership skills that you will be using your second year will include* ***fundraising*** *for donations to cover your session day costs;* ***professional speaking*** *skills for the introduction of speakers and topics and* ***organizational skills*** *in setting agendas of the day’s events. Please review the dates of the retreats and sessions and consult with your employer about attendance requirements. Your signature below verifies that, if accepted into the program, you agree to abide by the attendance requirements.*

(Signature) (Date)

**STAFF USE: Affiliation Code**

**Paid**

**Date Rec’d**

***\*\*\*Please see required application questions to accompany your application\*\*\****

**REQUIRED: Please complete the required questions below and include these with your application:**

1. **Explain how you think Leadership Missoula can help you fulfill your own aspirations to be a leader in the Missoula community.**
2. **How will participation in Leadership Missoula benefit your organization?**
3. **Please attach a resume that includes your educational background and work history.**
4. **\*If you’ve selected YES for a scholarship and your attendance depends on receipt of scholarship– please provide a short paragraph on why you feel you would be a great candidate.**

***Graduates of Leadership Missoula are selected to lead the program!***

****Katie Cowart, LM Chair 41/Graduate LM38

Financial Services Representative

First Interstate Bank

101 E Front St, Missoula, MT 59802

Business Phone: (406) 523-4435

Email: katie.cowart@fib.com

Katie Cowart is a born and raised Missoulian, the youngest of five children. Her husband is also a local and they enjoy raising their three children plus bonus (foster) daughter in the town they both grew up in. Between sporting events and choir concerts, Katie enjoys spending as much free time as she can manage in the endless nature Montana provides.

Katie started her career with First Interstate Bank back in 2008 as a teller. After spending several years

there, she moved on to the Financial Services department where she currently resides. She specializes in

personal and small business loans as well as any new account or account maintenance. Katie loves to be

a source of knowledge for her team and the go-to problem solver.

Katie is an avid member of her community and loves opportunities to serve within. First Interstate Bank

has always been a huge advocate for community volunteering and partners well with her yearning to

help. Katie recently joined the board for Watson’s Children Shelter and is excited to participate further

with the Leadership Missoula program as Chair for LM 41.

Mike McKeen, LM Chair- Elect 41/Graduate LM39

Commercial Lender

First Security Bank

1704 Dearborn Ave, Missoula, MT 59802

Business Phone: (406) 329-1918 Email: MMcKeen@fsbmsla.com

 Mike McKeen is a Commercial Loan Officer in the commercial loan department at

 First Security Bank of Missoula. He began his banking career in Havre, MT, after

 after earning his Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from MSU-Northern.

Mike then continued his banking career in Livingston, MT, before moving to Missoula, where he has been fortunate to build strong ties within the community while continuing

work at First Security Bank.

In his role, Mike works with local businesses to provide financial solutions and help them grow, building strong, lasting relationships throughout the Missoula area.

Outside of work, Mike enjoys a variety of seasonal hobbies. In the summer, he can be found golfing or hiking, while in the winter, he enjoys skiing and spending time outdoors with his girlfriend and their dog.

Mike looks forward to continuing his journey with Leadership Missoula, having participated in LM 39, and is honored to serve as the future Chair Elect of LM 41 and Chair of LM 42.

 ***Please return your application to:***

 **The Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce**

 **PO Box 7577**

 **Missoula, MT 59807-7577**

**All applications, scholarships, payment information and program information contact**

**Debbie Erbacher - Leadership Missoula Program Director**

**Phone - 406.303.8763 Email -** **debbiee@missoulachamber.com**

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