



LEADERSHIP MISSOULA

Leadership Missoula 42 Program Application 2026-2027

Developing Missoula's Leaders for 41 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

- 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:**

- **\$2,000 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 3, 2026.**

- **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, June 4, 2026**
\$50 non-refundable application fee
- **Late deadline: after June 4, 2026**
\$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 42 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.
- New to the LM program this year, we will be planning a class activity to take place on a date this summer, which will be a required component of the LM 42 program. Additional details will be provided at a later date.

LEADERSHIP MISSOULA 42 SCHEDULE

**Beginning Retreat – Flathead Lake Lodge –
Tuesday/Wednesday – September 22nd &
23rd - 2026**

Monthly Sessions from 7:30am – 5:00pm

History & Culture Day
October 8, 2026

Business & Economy Day
October 22, 2026

Quality of Life Day
November 12, 2026

Government & Politics Day
December 10, 2026

Human Needs Day
January 14, 2027

Workforce & Education Day
February 11, 2027

Natural Resource Day
March 11, 2027

Public Safety & First Responder Day
April 15, 2027

Ending Retreat – TDB



LEADERSHIP MISSOULA

Application Form: Leadership Missoula 42

Name: _____ Title: _____

Business or Organization: _____ Industry Sector: _____

Gender: ___M ___F Age Group: ___20-29 ___30-39 ___40-49 ___50+ Birth date: ___/___/___
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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 3, 2026****

Deposit: A non-refundable \$50 application fee must accompany all applications submitted on or before **Friday, June 04, 2026**. 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? _____

*Attendance Requirements: Acceptance into the Leadership Missoula 42 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 43 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. New to the LM program this year, we will be planning a class activity to take place on a date in the summer of 2027, which will be a required component of the LM 42 program. Additional details will be provided at a later date. 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!



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 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 Chair of LM 42.



Jesse Vigil, LM Chair – Elect 42/Graduate LM40
Architect
Cushing Terrell
306 Railroad St. W #014
Missoula MT 59802

Jesse Vigil is a licensed architect at Cushing Terrell, specializing in private residences, restaurants, hospitality, and resort communities. He launched his career after receiving a Master's Degree from Montana State University and soon relocated to Missoula.

Jesse enjoys immersing himself in understanding how people live and experience different spaces. As a client advocate and problem solver, he approaches every challenge as an opportunity to learn.

Outside of work, Jesse spends time fishing, hiking, or hunting in the Montana outdoors with his wife and two sons



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
Cell Phone – 406.546.9886 Direct Line - 406.303.8763 Email - debbiee@missoulachamber.com

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