



LEADERSHIP COBB

Candidate Information Packet

Overview

Leading by example allows Leadership Cobb participants to directly impact the Cobb community. Fifty diverse and qualified individuals are selected annually to participate in this leadership development program. Leadership Cobb enhances personal and professional growth while participants gain awareness of current issues, community resources and the social, political and economic needs of the community.

Why Apply?

Leadership Cobb develops leadership skills and knowledge through its programs and retreats. Participants are introduced to a variety of viewpoints that illustrate the array of economic, political, educational and social factors at work in Cobb County. Sessions combine lectures and dialogue among speakers as well as audience interaction with leaders in all facets of the community.

The Class Year

The 2022-2023 program runs from June 2022 until May 2023. A summary of the full time commitment is included below:

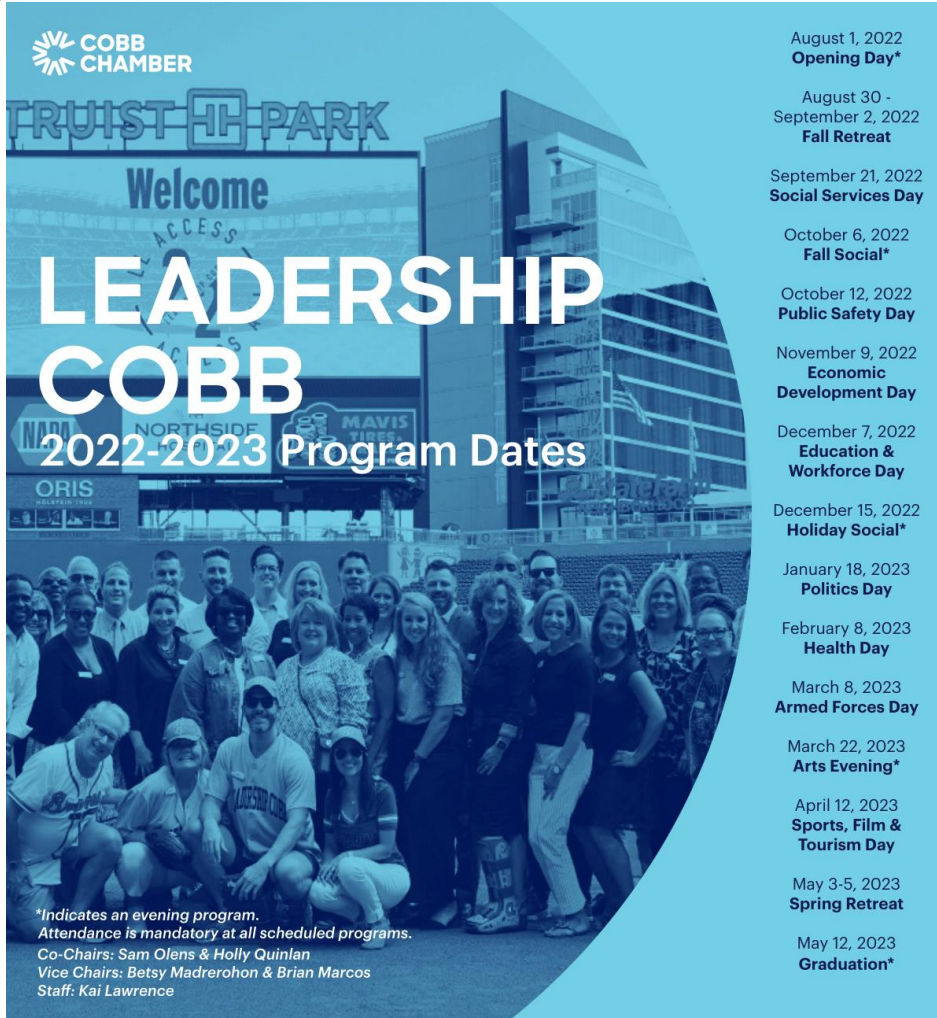
- A one hour assigned Orientation session in June, designed to prepare you for the program. You will be given the option to select a preferred date and time upon selection to the class.
- Two, three-day retreats in September and May. Full participation in both retreats is **mandatory**. Dates are included in the program schedule.
- Eight full-day programs. Dates are included in program schedule. Optional receptions are often held at the end of the program days. For maximum participation, it would be wise to block additional time on your calendar to attend as many of these optional social events as possible.
- Four evening programs/events. Dates are included in program schedule.
- Two Spotlight on Leadership meetings. Dates/times will be provided at a later date. There will be multiple opportunities to choose from throughout the program year.
- Additional time spent outside of structured class programs to be devoted to multiple service opportunities throughout the community over the 10 month program period.

Time Commitment

The time commitment is serious, and participants not complying with the attendance requirements will be dropped from the program. Full attendance at all program events and retreats is mandatory. Full participation in both retreats is also required. Tardiness and leaving early are considered attendance offenses. Please ensure that you and your employer are willing to make such a commitment of your time, if you are selected.

The Program Calendar

Please note that the Leadership Cobb program year requires a significant dedication of time and energy.



The graphic features a blue-tinted background with a group photo of Leadership Cobb members in the foreground. Text overlays include the Cobb Chamber logo, 'TRUIST PARK', 'Welcome ACCESS', 'LEADERSHIP COBB', and '2022-2023 Program Dates'. A list of dates and events is on the right, and program details are at the bottom.

COBB CHAMBER

TRUIST PARK

Welcome ACCESS

LEADERSHIP COBB

2022-2023 Program Dates

August 1, 2022
Opening Day*

August 30 - September 2, 2022
Fall Retreat

September 21, 2022
Social Services Day

October 6, 2022
Fall Social*

October 12, 2022
Public Safety Day

November 9, 2022
Economic Development Day

December 7, 2022
Education & Workforce Day

December 15, 2022
Holiday Social*

January 18, 2023
Politics Day

February 8, 2023
Health Day

March 8, 2023
Armed Forces Day

March 22, 2023
Arts Evening*

April 12, 2023
Sports, Film & Tourism Day

May 3-5, 2023
Spring Retreat

May 12, 2023
Graduation*

**Indicates an evening program.
Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled programs.
Co-Chairs: Sam Olens & Holly Quinlan
Vice Chairs: Betsy Madrerohon & Brian Marcos
Staff: Kai Lawrence*

Cost

A tuition fee is required to cover materials, leadership assessment/training expenses, monthly program expenses and retreats. Often employers are pleased to pay part or all of the tuition. If selected, for participation, a minimum of 50% deposit is due on **Friday, June 17**, with the balance due on **Friday, July 22**. Tuition for the Leadership Cobb program is \$3,500.00 for Cobb Chamber members in good standing, for employees of non-profit organizations, and for community volunteers. Tuition is \$3,900.00 for non-Cobb Chamber members, which includes a one-year Cobb Chamber membership. Leadership Cobb tuition is non-refundable once payment is received.

Financial Aid Opportunities

There are limited, needs-based financial assistance funds available. Applicants who would like to be considered for financial assistance should email Kai Lawrence at klawrence@cobbchamber.org to request an application. Your request for consideration will be held in the utmost confidence, and will in no way affect the selection process.

The deadline to apply for financial assistance is **Monday, March 28, 2022 (in addition to your Leadership Cobb application.)**

Selection Criteria

The application process aims to assess candidates along multiple dimensions, including but not limited to professional accomplishments, community involvement, volunteer service, leadership potential, intellectual curiosity and willingness to grow. At least 70 percent of the participants selected come from the business community or the professions, and up to 30 percent from the social services, government or the field of education.

The selection committee evaluates applicants with the following questions in mind:

- Have they demonstrated impact within their chosen profession?
- Do they show commitment to the community?
- Is the candidate willing to self-reflect and grow personally?
- Do they have the potential to affect change now and in the future?

The selection committee also strives to maintain geographic, racial, age, gender and occupational balance in its selections. Diversity of participants, backgrounds, experiences and opinions is a key ingredient to the success of the Leadership Cobb program.

Please note that while each of the above questions is used as criteria when evaluating applicants, excellent candidates do not necessarily possess each and every qualification sought. A person's potential for growth and for community impact, both now and in the future, is most important.

NOTE: Letters of recommendation, resumes, and CVs will not be considered by the Leadership Cobb Selection Committee and should not be submitted. Also, no consideration will be given during the selection process as to your nominator(s).

Online User Guidelines

To avoid technical difficulties, please review the following online user guidelines to ensure a successful application submission.

- Browser compatibility - We recommend using the latest version of either Firefox, Chrome, or Safari. If your browser does not update automatically to its latest version, we suggest doing so before you begin.
- Firewalls - Please be aware that your office firewall could prevent your successful access to the application. Using your company's internet/network may cause technical malfunctions due to restrictions placed on that network by your employer.
- Session / Time Outs - For security purposes, inactivity on the application could lead to time outs of your session. Be ready to submit your application at one time.
- **Do NOT use the "Back" key function** on your web browser when working on your application. Hitting the "back" function may cause the text you have entered to be lost.
- **Do NOT use the 'Enter' key function key** as this action will attempt to submit your application and highlight all required fields left blank.
- **Do not close your browser until you receive submission confirmation.**
- Make sure all fields are completed, as an incomplete application will not be submitted.

Tips for Application Success

- Save your answers in a separate document to avoid losing your work if technical difficulties arise. This is especially helpful for short answer and essay questions.
- Complete and submit the online application and attached commitment form by **Monday, March 28, 2022**. Applications will not be accepted after the deadline.
- Each section of the application will be reviewed and assigned a weighted score by selection committee members. You are strongly encouraged to include as much information as possible, and not to leave any section blank.
- The Leadership section on the application is most heavily weighted. Answering every question completely and thoroughly is highly encouraged.
- Ask someone you know to review your application before submitting it. Feedback from a trusted source can be very helpful in crafting a competitive application.

"I remember when we started; someone told me that this would be a life changing experience. I remember thinking to myself, 'this person must not have lived a very full life if the Leadership Cobb program had changed their life.' I can't speak for my entire class, but this program has been a life changing experience for me. I've taken the lessons from this program and have started incorporating them into my business and my personal life. I am more involved now with my community than I have ever been, and I know that this will never change. I've learned the meaning of REAL "servant leadership". Giving back, getting involved, and how just one person can make such a powerful impact in a community. I would NEVER have gained this experience in such a short amount of time if it hadn't been for Leadership Cobb."

– Shane Garrison, LC'14, Puckett EMS

"Don't view Leadership Cobb as your typical leadership development program- it is so much more than that! This will be a game changer if you invest in the programs and relationships with both heart and mind. Set a goal to have one-on-one conversations with every classmate throughout the year. This will ensure you create a unique connection with everyone that you can build on throughout the year. Be vulnerable in these conversations and really open up. You will be amazed how you will rely on your classmates and how many moments in life your classmates will need your strength and support."

– Andrew Cox, LC'17, Wellstar Health System

