



Leadership Magnolia-Columbia County Application

Class of 2025-2026

The mission of Leadership Magnolia-Columbia County is to improve the quality of life in the community by developing qualified leaders who will address and facilitate solutions to critical issues.

Program Overview

Established in 1995, Leadership Magnolia-Columbia County is a ten-month program designed to cultivate both emerging and experienced leaders. From September 2025 through May 2026, participants will take part in immersive, full-day sessions held monthly—typically on the third Thursday—with a few exceptions in September.

Each session incorporates a mix of forums, tours, guest speakers, and collaborative discussions on topics such as:

- Government & Public Policy
- Community Heritage
- Health Care & Human Services
- Education & Workforce
- Economic Development

Participants will gain deeper insight into local assets and challenges while forming lasting connections with fellow leaders and key stakeholders.

Program Benefits

Leadership Magnolia-Columbia County provides:

- Access to exclusive learning opportunities and civic experiences
- Exposure to regional resources and decision-makers
- A strong network for personal and professional growth
- Motivation to engage in future leadership roles in the community

Program Commitment & Schedule

Participants are expected to commit to the following dates and responsibilities to successfully graduate:

- **Mandatory Overnight Retreat:** September 24–25, 2025 (Camp Winnamocka)
- **Monthly Sessions** (full-day):
 - September 4 – Nonprofit Tour
 - October 16 – Magnolia History & Arts
 - November 20 – Education & Workforce Development
 - December 18 – Healthcare
 - January 15 – Industry
 - February 19 – Local Government & Small Business
 - March 19 – Capital Tour in Little Rock
 - April 16 – Housing & Banking
 - May – Graduation Ceremony

Required Pre-Retreat Assignments

Prior to the overnight retreat at Camp Winnamocka, all participants must:

- **Read *13 Ways to Kill Your Community* by Doug Griffiths**
The book will be provided at no cost by Leadership Magnolia-Columbia County.
- **Complete the StrengthsFinder Assessment**
Leadership Magnolia will cover the cost of the StrengthsFinder online test.
If you would like to purchase a printed copy of the StrengthsFinder book, it is available for \$15.

Program Expectations

- Attend and actively participate in all scheduled sessions and the retreat
- Complete all assigned readings and assessments prior to the retreat
- Work collaboratively on a class project that provides a lasting improvement to the community
- Participate in one scheduled work day related to the class project (to be determined by the class)
- Contribute to class meetings and fundraising efforts

Note: Individuals unable to make this commitment are encouraged to apply in a future year.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name:

Preferred Name:

Home Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Company/Business: _____

Title: _____

Immediate Supervisor: _____

Business Address: _____

Business Phone: _____

Preferred mailing address:

☐ Office ☐ Home

Leadership Magnolia-Columbia County brings together people from diverse backgrounds to help address the needs of our community. The information below helps us ensure a broad mix of participants from across the city.

The following demographic information is optional:

Age: _____ Gender: _____ Race: _____

I. Education

Please list your educational background:

School Name & Location | Dates Attended | Degree | Major

II. Employment

Current Employer: _____

Date of Hire: _____

Type of Business/Organization: _____

Title: _____

Brief description of responsibilities:

Previous Employment (last 3 years): Employer | Title/Responsibilities | From – To

III. Community Involvement

List up to five community, civic, athletic, religious, or professional groups in which you are or have been active. Organization | Membership Dates | Roles Held

Most meaningful accomplishment in one of the above organizations:

Estimated hours of volunteer service per month: _____

Boards or committees you hope to serve on in the future and why:

IV. Awards and Recognition

List any awards or recognitions you've received from schools, organizations, or employers:

V. General Questions

What are three significant challenges facing Magnolia and Southwest Arkansas today? What recommendations do you have for addressing these?

What are some of the most promising opportunities for our region?

What steps would you take to help develop one of these opportunities?

In your view, what traits do strong leaders consistently demonstrate?

VI. Commitment Agreement

By signing below, I affirm that:

- I understand the goals and expectations of Leadership Magnolia-Columbia County.
- I am able and willing to attend all required sessions, including the overnight retreat in September 2025.
- I agree to actively contribute to the class project and related activities.
- I agree to finish the class project and attend the graduation ceremony.
- I understand that missing more than 16 hours of the program may result in dismissal without a refund.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

TUITION & SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST

☐ I will be paying:

☐ \$500 – Standard Tuition

☐ \$400 – Nonprofit Discount

☐ I am applying for a scholarship:

Amount requested: \$ _____

Brief explanation of financial need:

Optional Add-On:

☐ I would like to purchase a copy of the **StrengthsFinder** book for an additional **\$15**

(Note: The StrengthsFinder test is provided at no additional cost. Purchasing the book is optional.)

Checks should be made payable to:

Leadership Magnolia

Tuition is due by **August 18, 2025**

EMPLOYER COMMITMENT (if applicable)

Leadership Magnolia-Columbia County requires support from participating employees' workplaces. Please review and sign below.

We support this employee's participation and understand they must attend all required sessions and the overnight retreat.

Authorized Signature: _____

Name and Title: _____

Additional Information (Optional)

How did you learn about Leadership Magnolia-Columbia County?

☐ Media ☐ Alumni ☐ Business Contact ☐ Friend ☐ Other: _____

Applicants who are not selected are encouraged to reapply in future years.