



MISSION STATEMENT:

Youth Leadership Dothan – Houston County is a county-wide leadership training program for high school juniors who have demonstrated leadership skills. The program prepares the individual for constructive leadership, committed involvement and responsible participation in the future of our community.

INFORMATION FOR 2024-2025 APPLICANTS:

Please review the following information before completing your application. Make special note of the Program Calendar. **Attendance is HIGHLY important; 100% attendance at all sessions is expected**, so please ensure that you have no knowledge of conflicts with these dates before submitting your application.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- 15 years of age and high school junior
- Attend a high school in Houston County
- Approval of your high school principal
- Homeschool applicants must be affiliated with a local homeschool association & reside in Houston County
- Demonstrate leadership in school and/or community activities
- Have an interest in addressing the issues confronting your community
- Commit to full participation in the program
- Be academically sound; an average of “C” or better is recommended as the program will require students to miss seven days of class (one day per month)

APPLICANT CHECKLIST:

- Complete application
- Return application **by September 9, 2024, at 4pm** to your school counselor *or* to Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce:
Jessica Steltenpohl, Vice President of Investor Relations
Physical Address: 102 Jamestown Blvd.
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 638, Dothan, AL 36302
Email Address: Jessicas@dothan.com
- Complete the top portion of the reference form then pass the reference form to an adult reference to complete. *The completed reference forms should be returned directly to Jessica Steltenpohl with the Dothan Area Chamber* using the contact information above. Please remind them that **reference forms are also due by September 9, 2024 at 4pm.**

For more information, talk with your school counselor or Youth Leadership point of contact. You may also reach out to Jessica Steltenpohl with the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce using the contact information listed above.

SELECTION PROCESS:

Using the mission and goals of Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County as a guide, the Youth Leadership Selection Committee will:

- Review all of the applications
- Choose a group of finalists to be interviewed (Interview dates will be the last full week of September)
- After interviewing the finalists, select approximately 40 participants for the 2024-2025 Youth Leadership class
- All applicants will be notified in writing of the Selection Committee’s decision. Applications and interview discussion will remain confidential.

TUITION & TUITION ASSISTANCE

- The cost to each participant is \$350.
- This program is sponsored by the Dothan Area Chamber Foundation. If you are in need of financial assistance, please contact Jessica Steltenpohl at the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce: (334) 792-5138 or jessicas@dothan.com

TRANSPORTATION

- Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from the assembly point of each Program Day. Transportation throughout the day will be provided by the Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Program.

ATTENDANCE COMMITMENT

- To successfully complete the Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Program and receive a graduation certificate, a participant is expected to attend seven sessions AND the community service project selected by the class. **Attendance at the opening retreat and community service project is MANDATORY.**
- An excused absence will be granted only for family emergencies or illness. If a student misses more than one session, they are welcome to complete the program, but they cannot be recognized as a graduate of the Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Program. Tuition is non-refundable.

By signing below, I acknowledge and agree to the attendance commitment.

Printed Name of Applicant: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Email Address: _____

PARENTAL PERMISSION

- I am the parent or guardian of the above-named student. Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County, its agents and its employees have my full permission and consent to transport and otherwise provide transportation for my child by public service bus, private automobile, van or other appropriate means of transportation in connection with all sessions of Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County during the school year in which they are a participant.
- I hereby release and hold harmless Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County, its members, agents, participating schools, school systems, or any individuals involved in the planning, organization, or presentation of this program for any accident, injury, illness or any damage whatsoever relate to the above-mentioned student's attendance at or participation in any activity or session of the Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Program.
- I hereby release, indemnify and hold harmless and agree not to sue the Dothan Area Chamber Foundation and give my permission for the release of the above student's name and address to educational institutions.

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Email Address: _____ Work Phone #: _____

SCHOOL APPROVAL

The school reserves the right to withdraw the student from the program for academic and/or disciplinary reasons. The Chamber will contact your school to verify attendance, grade point average and school approval for you to participate in the Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Program. Homeschool applicants must provide documentation of grade level and grade point average from their homeschool association. Tuition is non-refundable.

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS & REFERENCES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4PM ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2024. NO EXCEPTIONS.



2024-2025 PROGRAM CALENDAR

- Monthly sessions will be from 7:45am-4pm.
- Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from the assembly point, which is typically the Chamber of Commerce office. Transportation during each session will be provided throughout the Youth Leadership Program Days.
- School attendance credit will be granted for each school day session attended.

Orientation & Reception (Student, Parent/Stepparents only)	October 23, 2024
Opening Retreat (**Attendance Mandatory**)	November 13, 2024
Youth Forum	December 4, 2024
Education Day	January 8, 2025
Government Day	February 12, 2025
Health Care Day	March 12, 2025
Public Safety Day	April 16, 2025
Economic Day & Closing Retreat	April 30, 2025
Graduation – 6:00 p.m.	May 13, 2025
Class Community Service Projects (**Attendance Mandatory**)	TBA

Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Class 33 Presenting Sponsor





2024-2025 APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____ (Middle) _____

Name you prefer to be called: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____ Race: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Main area of academic interest: _____

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

List up to three special awards, honors or recognitions for academic, school or community related activities you have received from the 7th-10th grades:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

ORGANIZATIONS / CLUBS / TEAMS

List your school, volunteer, religious, social organizations/clubs and any athletic teams in which you have participated during the last four years. Please do not abbreviate organization, club or team names.

<i>ORGANIZATIONS / CLUBS / TEAMS</i>	<i>GRADE</i>	<i>RESPONSIBILITY/INVOLVEMENT</i>

WORK EXPERIENCE

List any part-time job experience, paid or volunteer, and briefly describe your role:

Do you currently have a part-time job? _____ Hours worked per week: _____



Q&A: Please answer the following questions. You may use one additional page, if needed.

Describe yourself in one sentence:

What are your top three accomplishments?

1.

2.

3.

What session listed on the Program Calendar interests you the most and what do you hope to get out of it?

What is one possible area for self-improvement in which you would like to focus on during this program?

What are a few local City of Dothan/Houston County issues that you would like to learn about?

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself?

ESSAY

Please respond to the following question in 250 words or less.

If you could change anything in our community, what would you change and how would you accomplish it?



2024-2025 REFERENCE FORM

TO THE APPLICANT: PLEASE COMPLETE THIS PORTION WITH YOUR INFORMATION

Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____ (Middle) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

School Name: _____

Waiver of Access:

- I, the undersigned, waive the right of personal access to the reference
- I, the undersigned, DO NOT waive the right of personal access to the reference

TO THE REFERENCE: The person named above is an applicant for the Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County Program. Your complete and thoughtful responses to the questions below will help the Selection Committee make their final decisions.

Please return completed reference by September 9, 2024, to jessicas@dothan.com or by mailing it to:

Dothan Area Chamber Foundation
 Youth Leadership Dothan-Houston County
 P.O. Box 638
 Dothan, AL 36302

Name of reference: _____

Position/Title: _____

School/Business/Firm/Organization: _____

Reference's Email: _____

Reference's Phone Number: _____

How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

Please identify why you believe the above student will benefit from participation in the Youth Leadership program:

Please describe the leadership skills and characteristics that you believe the student possesses, or needs to develop:

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS & REFERENCES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4PM ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2024. NO EXCEPTIONS.