

NAME _____
(Please print)

LEADERSHIP

BENTON COUNTY

**A program of the
Bentonville/Bella Vista, Rogers-Lowell Area & Siloam Springs
Chambers of Commerce**

Confidential Application for Appointment

Instructions for completing the application:

- Type or print in black ink.
- Please complete each section in full.
- Limit answers to the space available.
- Two letters of recommendation are required.
- Application must be signed by both applicant, and employer.
- Application must be returned no later than July 10, 2009.

Thank you for your interest in LEADERSHIP BENTON COUNTY. All applications are subject to confidential evaluation. If you are not selected to participate in this year's LEADERSHIP BENTON COUNTY program, the Selection Committee encourages you to reapply next year.

Leadership Benton County is Presented By:

ARVEST®



II. EDUCATION

- A. Name & Location of School Dates (from-to) Degree Major
(Begin with high school, college(s), advanced degrees and/or specialized training.)

- B. Extracurricular Activities: (Leadership positions held, special honors & awards received.)

III. EMPLOYMENT

Present Employer _____

Type of Organization _____

Title _____

Length of Present Employment _____

Supervisor's Name & Title _____

- A. Briefly describe your responsibilities in your employment:

- B. List previous employment in reverse chronological order (include active military duty).

Employer	Title/Responsibility	Dates	Reason for Leaving
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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

- C. What do you consider your highest career achievement to date?

B. Why do you want to participate in Leadership Benton County, and what do you expect to gain from it?

VI. REFERENCES

Attach two (2) letters of reference; one personal and one professional. Letters may accompany the application or may be sent separately to Leadership Benton County, 317 West Walnut, Rogers, AR 72756.

VII. PARTICIPANT COMMITMENT

I understand the purposes of the LEADERSHIP BENTON COUNTY program and if I am selected, I will devote the time and resources necessary to complete the program. I understand the following:

- that my employer or sponsor may be contacted regarding my participation in the program during the year.
- that by missing the Opening Retreat, the State Government session, or any more than 8 hours, for whatever reason, I will be asked to withdraw from the program and no portion of the tuition will be refunded.
- Any misrepresented information presented in this application is ground for dismissal from the program.

I agree to be bound by the above commitments in signing this application.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

VIII. TUITION

If accepted into the LEADERSHIP BENTON COUNTY program, you or your employer will be billed \$875 for the tuition fee which covers all program costs.

Solicitation of tuition is strictly prohibited and is ground for dismissal from the program.

If tuition is not paid in full by Aug. 20, 2009, the participant will not be allowed to participate in the Opening Retreat.

Tuition is due and payable by August 20, 2009.

Will your employer/sponsor pay the tuition fee? Yes___ No___
Or will you personally pay the tuition fee? Yes___ No___

IX. EMPLOYER COMMITMENT (must be signed if applicable)

This application has the approval of this organization, and the applicant has our full support, which includes the time commitment involved (up to 12 full days) for his/her effective participation, as well as the financial obligation (if applicable) which is payable by Aug. 20, 2009. I understand that absence from the Opening Retreat, State Government session, or any more than 8 hours will result in the applicant's dismissal from the program with no tuition refund.

Employer Name (Please Print)

Signature

Title

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Application signed by applicant
- Employer/sponsor signature
- Letters of Reference (2)

**DELIVER COMPLETED APPLICATIONS
TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:**

LEADERSHIP BENTON COUNTY
c/o Bentonville/Bella Vista Chamber of Commerce
202 East Central Avenue/PO Box 330
Bentonville, AR 72712

LEADERSHIP BENTON COUNTY
c/o Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce
317 West Walnut Street
Rogers, AR 72756

OR

LEADERSHIP BENTON COUNTY
c/o Siloam Springs Chamber of Commerce
108 East University/PO Box 476
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS July 10, 2009.

All applicants will be notified of acceptance or non-acceptance by July 20, 2009 with tuition being due and payable by August 20, 2009.

THE CHALLENGE

Leaders are not born; they are developed. This is a fact that many don't realize. We take for granted the future of our area by simply assuming that the appropriate leadership talent will emerge to guide us whenever we need it. There is no better program to serve as the training ground for our future leaders than Leadership Benton County. The keys to northwest Arkansas' future are knowledgeable and skilled leaders who have an awareness and understanding of all facets of our community, including government, business, education, recreation, utilities, infrastructure, housing, health care, social services and more.

THE PURPOSE

Leadership Benton County develops a network of competent leaders for present and future community needs. To meet this goal, LBC seeks to:

- identify and motivate individuals with leadership potential;
- acquaint them with community needs, challenges and opportunities;
- offer a forum of exchange on methods for dealing with community issues;
- challenge potential leaders to become involved with local issues and the process of decision making.

ACCOMPLISHING OUR OBJECTIVES

Leadership Benton County seeks to promote and develop dynamic community leaders for Benton County, while uniting a diverse group of people; to expose and educate while promoting a regional view of the area; to provide opportunities to learn, enhance and apply leadership skills; to provide a forum to offer solutions and alternatives to community needs and concerns.

CURRICULUM

The program consists of 12 sessions held monthly from August to May. Sessions include an evening Orientation, a two-day Opening Retreat, a two and a half day trip to Little Rock, eight day-long sessions, and a Graduation Celebration. Each session runs approximately from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Session topics include Local /County Government, Human Services, Leadership Workshop, Economy, Education, State Government, Humanities & Healthcare, a class-planned session, and NWA Tourism Day. The class will also be required to complete a community-service project during the program year.

HISTORY OF LBC

Emerging from three community leadership programs, Leadership Benton County was designed in 2002 to promote a regional vision among future county leaders. LBC is a joint project of the Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, the Bentonville/Bella Vista Chamber of Commerce, and the Siloam Springs Chamber of Commerce.

LBC combines the best practices of the previous programs, and continues to innovatively incorporate a regional perspective in each session. The program is designed to ensure that county leaders possess the knowledge to enable them to meet the regional challenges of the future while enhancing the quality of life in Benton County.

The program is governed by a Steering Committee with equal representation from the Siloam Springs, Bentonville/Bella Vista and Rogers-Lowell areas. Staff members from each of the three chambers provide coordination and program planning.



CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Participation is open to persons 25 years of age or older, living and/or working in Benton County, and who possess the following characteristics:

1. Strongly professed interest and commitment to serve the northwest Arkansas region beyond the training period.
2. Willingness to devote time to Leadership Benton County in terms of attendance and field projects during the training program.
3. An occupational commitment to remain in northwest Arkansas, or little likelihood of transfer in the immediate future.
4. Community and/or civic service leadership as evidenced by the breadth and level of involvement in non-employment-related volunteer activities; or demonstration of interest in becoming more involved.
5. Demonstration of leadership skills and abilities on the job.
6. Demonstration of strong interpersonal skills and a tendency to be proactive on issues of concern to the community.
7. Ability to make a substantive contribution to the program, both in terms of issues and projects, as well as networking with peers.
8. Financial and time commitment of applicant's employer or sponsoring organization for applicant to participate in Leadership Benton County.

PARTICIPANT SELECTION

Each year, the number of LBC applications exceeds the number of available slots. An anonymous Selection Committee gives careful consideration to choosing a class that represents a cross-section of the community. Participants will be active in business, education, the arts, religion, government, community-based organizations, ethnic and minority groups, and will reflect the diversity of the community.

Participants will be selected based upon the information in this application. Participants should be just approaching or already at the decision-making level in their organizations. Individuals who have the potential for advancement to the top leadership within their organization and who may play a significant role in the future of Benton County should also apply.

Since the number of appointments to Leadership Benton County is limited, applicants who are not selected are encouraged to reapply in subsequent years.

TIME COMMITMENT

LBC applicants should have the full support of their family and employer as the program requires a significant time commitment. The program consists of ten full-day training sessions, which are usually held on the second Thursday of each month from September through May. There are two required sessions : Opening Retreat on Aug. 20-21, and State Government on February 17-19, 2010. Additional projects may be assigned.

Program participants are expected to attend each monthly session. Participants may miss up to eight hours of scheduled events, for whatever reason. Anything over eight hours must be approved by the steering committee. Missing more than eight hours can constitute dismissal from the program and no portion of the tuition will be refunded. The Opening Retreat and State Government sessions are mandatory, therefore, no absences are authorized.

TUITION

Tuition is \$875 and may be paid by the employer or sponsor, or by the individual applicant. Tuition covers all sessions, materials, speaker and instructor fees, field trips, overnight lodging, meals, refreshments, tours and the graduation event.

LEADERSHIP

BENTON COUNTY

Session Dates for LBC8

To graduate from LEADERSHIP BENTON COUNTY, a participant is required to attend all sessions and to be present for the entire session.

CURRICULUM

2009-2010 DATES

Orientation	Aug. 6, 2009
Opening Retreat (mandatory)	Aug. 20-21, 2009
Human Services	Sept. 10, 2009
Education	Oct. 8, 2009
NWA Tourism	Nov. 12, 2009
Leadership Workshop	Dec. 10, 2009
Economy	Jan. 14, 2010
State Government* (mandatory)	Feb. 17-19, 2010
Local/County Government	March 11, 2010
Humanities & Health Care	April 8, 2010
Class-Planned Session	May 13, 2010
Graduation	May 27, 2010

*Includes an overnight stay.
Some dates may be subject to change.

Emergencies do arise. However, any participant missing the Opening Retreat, State Government session or more eight hours, will be asked to withdraw from the program, and no portion of the tuition shall be refunded. If a participant must miss a session the Leadership staff must be notified as far in advance as possible.