



Leadership
HELENA
PROGRAM OF THE HELENA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LEADERSHIP HELENA PROGRAM APPLICATION 2025-2026



SHAPING HELENA'S FUTURE

Welcome to Leadership Helena

Leadership Helena is a dynamic program designed and organized by the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce to cultivate informed, engaged, and visionary leaders within the Helena community. Through a blend of professional development, meaningful networking, and active involvement with the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce and the broader community, participants gain the skills and insights needed to lead with purpose and impact.

Why Join Leadership Helena?

Leadership Helena empowers participants to grow both personally and professionally. The program combines leadership training with hands-on community engagement, equipping individuals to challenge the status quo, inspire innovative thinking, and take meaningful action. Graduates emerge ready to make a lasting difference in Helena—strengthening organizations, building connections, and shaping the future of our community.



Leadership HELENA

PROGRAM OF THE HELENA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Applications Due

Deadline: End of the Business Day, July 11

Notifications by July 25

Goals of the Leadership Helena Program

1. Enhanced Leadership Skills

Participants will develop critical leadership competencies—such as strategic thinking, effective communication, and decision-making—that can be directly applied to their roles within the organization.

2. Broader Community Awareness

Employees will gain a deeper understanding of the Helena area's economic, civic, and cultural landscape, enabling them to represent their organization more effectively in community and business settings.

3. Stronger Professional Network

Through structured networking opportunities, participants will build lasting relationships with other local professionals, fostering potential partnerships and collaborations that benefit their employer.

4. Increased Initiative and Innovation

By challenging conventional thinking and encouraging new perspectives, the program inspires participants to bring fresh ideas and proactive solutions back to their workplace.

5. Greater Organizational Engagement

Employees return with a renewed sense of purpose and community connection, often becoming more engaged, motivated, and aligned with their organization's mission and values.

Selection & Tuition

- Candidates will be selected with a goal of establishing a diverse mix of professions, activities, and backgrounds
- Tuition:
 - \$1,750 for Chamber Members
 - \$2,000 for Non-Chamber Members
 - Tuition fee is payable upon acceptance in the program. This fee covers the costs of the beginning retreat, individual session meals, materials and group transportation. (Tuition is nonrefundable and must be paid in full by August 29, 2025.)
 - Please Note: If a community health event occurs and we are unable to complete the year in person, the year will be completed virtually—there will be no refunds.

Program Requirements

- Leadership Helena participants will initiate their experience with a two-day, mandatory retreat in September.
- Two-year commitment: Graduates of the class will work together the following year to organize three of the session days plus graduation for the next Leadership Helena class. The second year will also include fundraising and professional speaking as well as oversight of planning committee for the Leadership Helena class.
- Participants may not be absent for more than 2.5 days total. The beginning retreat is 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 and will not be allowed to participate in the planning of the session days with their fellow class members in year two.
- Payment Plans are available. Please speak to Callie Aschim at the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce for more information.

LEADERSHIP HELENA 2025-2026 SCHEDULE

New Class Meet & Greet

Thursday, September 11

Beginning Retreat at Blacktail Ranch

Thursday & Friday, September 25
& 26 (return by 3pm Friday)

Monthly Sessions from 8am -5pm

Sustainable Helena Day

Thursday, October 16

Day Planning Orientation

Tuesday, October 21

Historic Helena Day

Thursday, November 20

Philanthropy Day

Thursday, December 18

Personal Wellness Day

Thursday, January 22

City Policy & Advocacy Day

Thursday, February 19

Education & Workforce Day

Thursday, March 19

Human Needs Day

Thursday, April 16

Community Service Day

May Date Pending

Graduation Day

Thursday, June 4

2nd Year Orientation

Wednesday, August 12

2024-2025 LEADERSHIP HELENA APPLICATION

NAME:

TITLE:

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION:

INDUSTRY SECTOR:

GENDER: ☐ Male ☐ Female AGE GROUP: ☐ 20-29 ☐ 30-39 ☐ 40-49 ☐ 50+

DATE OF BIRTH:

DAY MONTH YEAR

CELL PHONE:

BUSINESS PHONE:

BUSINESS MAILING ADDRESS:

HOME MAILING ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

NAME OF SUPERVISOR:

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS/PREFERENCES:

TUITION RATE: ☐ \$1,750 Chamber Member ☐ \$2,000 Non-Chamber Member

TUITION PAID BY: ☐ Employer ☐ Self ☐ Employer & Self ☐ Other

WHO RECOMMENDED THIS PROGRAM TO YOU:

Attendance Requirements: Acceptance into the Leadership Helena program includes a two-year commitment. The first year consists of a mandatory retreat and nine sessions, spanning from October through June. Attendance at retreat 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 Helena graduate. The second-year commitment after graduation provides first hand leadership training as planners for the LH 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. Please review the dates of the retreat and sessions and consult with your employer about attendance requirements. Your signature below verifies that, if accepted into the program, you and your employer agree to abide by the attendance requirements.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE

SIGNATURE OF SUPERVISOR

DATE

STAFF USE: PAID

DATE REC'D



REQUIRED: Please complete the required questions below and include these with your application:

1. Explain how you think Leadership Helena can help you fulfill your own aspirations to be a leader in the Helena community.
2. How will participation in Leadership Helena benefit your organization?
3. Please attach a resume that includes your educational background and work history.



***Please return your application to:
Helena Area Chamber of Commerce
225 N Cruse Ave Ste. A
Helena, MT 59601
Or to caschim@helenachamber.com***

All applications, scholarships, payment information and program information contact
Callie Aschim 406-442-4120 ext. 101

Leadership Helena is a program of the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce