



Arts & Humanities Day

*"Leadership Charlotte 2025 has been a truly life-changing experience. It opened my eyes to the incredible work our county does on behalf of its citizens and the vast resources available within our community. I'm honored to have been part of such an inspiring class and am grateful for the meaningful relationships and friendships that came from it. This journey has left a lasting impact both personally and professionally. I can't encourage strongly enough to support and participate in this amazing program."*

Deanna Heminger, Suncoast One Title & Closings

Leadership Charlotte is an immersive, hands-on program designed to develop informed, engaged leaders who are passionate about making a difference in Charlotte County. Each year, 25 participants are selected to explore key community sectors, build meaningful connections, and apply their skills through a collaborative service project that creates lasting impact for a local cause.

*"Leadership Charlotte 25 was an incredible experience that allowed me to discover the many amazing businesses, organizations, and hidden gems throughout Charlotte County. I truly value the meaningful relationships I built with my classmates and the opportunity to come together for a cause that gives back to our community."*

Kristen Szych, Development Director, United Way of Charlotte County

To successfully complete the Leadership Charlotte program, participants must meet specific course requirements, including mandatory attendance at the Simulated Society session on Friday, October 23. Attendance at all monthly sessions is expected, with no more than two excused absences allowed in order to fulfill graduation criteria. Exceptions are considered only under special circumstances.



Health Care Day

*"If you're interested in growing your understanding of the community and being stretched in your capacity, I genuinely believe there's a place for every personality type in the Leadership Charlotte program. As long as you embark with the understanding that you'll get out of it what you put in, you'll find the experience rewarding."*

Jordan Flick, Owner and CEO, The Flick Framework

Leadership Charlotte, established in 1988, is a premier community leadership development program with over 900 alumni who remain actively engaged in driving positive changes throughout Charlotte County. Participants take part in monthly, full-day sessions that provide in-depth exposure to key sectors shaping our region, including government, education, healthcare, justice, the environment, agriculture, tourism, media, and more. The program cultivates informed, connected, and inspired leaders committed to serving and strengthening our community.

*"Leadership Charlotte is an unmatched program in terms of learning about and gaining invaluable insight into our county. I've gained a new appreciation for many of the challenges Charlotte County faces and the people behind the curtain who strive to help make our community better each day. I've created many new business relationships and partnerships, and have many new lifelong friends."*

Hallie Rubins, Director of Development, Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity



Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce

2702 Tamiami Trail  
Port Charlotte, FL 33952  
941-627-2222

[www.charlottecountychamber.org](http://www.charlottecountychamber.org)



## CLASS OF 2026 APPLICATION

Premier program of  
the Charlotte County  
Chamber of Commerce



# Leadership Charlotte Confidential Application

- Class Size is limited to twenty-five applicants.
- Participants are selected through an anonymous process. Avoid revealing your identity through your answers to the questions.

Please answer the following 7 questions in a thorough & comprehensive manner, as your answers will have a direct impact on your acceptance into the program. Please type your answers on a separate sheet of blank paper. Number your answers to correspond with the questions. Answers are required in a word document format if sent online.

*“Growing up in Charlotte County, I thought I knew my community well – but Leadership Charlotte opened my eyes to people, organizations, and challenges I never knew existed. The experience deepened my appreciation for our county and the incredible work being done behind the scenes. I’m leaving the program more connected, inspired, and committed to making a difference right here at home.”*  
Drew Rossi, PE, Protean Design Group, Inc.

- 1 Please provide a brief overview of your background, including your employment history, education, extracurricular involvement, and any special interests or activities that are important to you.
- 2 How do you approach and manage disagreements or conflicts when collaborating with others?
- 3 What do you consider to be your most significant contribution or achievement in your professional career?
- 4 What strengths and qualifications do you bring that make you a strong candidate for the Leadership Charlotte program?
- 5 Describe your involvement in community service or volunteer work to date, and explain why these experiences hold personal significance for you.
- 6 Articulate your motivations for seeking participation in the Leadership Charlotte program, and identify the potential benefits your involvement could bring to the community.
- 7 Please identify a specific issue or problem you’ve observed within Charlotte County. In your response, propose a solution that you or the Leadership Charlotte class could implement as a class project to address this concern.

If I am selected:

- I will devote the time and resources necessary to complete the program including the class project
- I understand the attendance requirement and mandatory SimSoc attendance
- Program participants must be members of the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce
- Membership Dues must be current

If you are a political candidate, please apply next year when your campaign is complete.

Cost of the program is \$795 and is payable at the time of acceptance. Half scholarships may be available, please advise when applying. There is a \$50 application fee: if accepted, the fee will be applied towards the tuition balance (submit with application).

Applicant’s signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

— Please print or type. —

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Nick Name \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Do you reside in Charlotte County? \_\_\_\_\_ If “yes,” for how long? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you applied to Leadership Charlotte before? \_\_\_\_\_

The application deadline is 4:00 p.m., Friday, August 1, 2025. Return completed application and fee to: Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce, 2702 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, FL 33952, 941-627-2222. Completed applications may be emailed to Janet Caffee at [jcaffee@charlottecountychamber.org](mailto:jcaffee@charlottecountychamber.org).