



## 2021-2022 Graduation Requirements

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Leadership Jackson is a program designed to help participants become effective leaders and to facilitate the impact of community-based organizations. Students develop an understanding of critical issues facing Jackson County, knowledge to enhance their leadership skills, and a “laboratory” to practice what they are learning. Experiencing these three elements prepares class participants for making immediate contributions to their community.

The program is structured to provide class members with a wide variety of experiences. The class meets once a month at various locations to learn about important community issues and to meet key people within the community. Class members are also required to attend several external activities such as school board meetings, county commission meetings, city council meetings and a few others.

These extra-curricular activities are meant to give participants a broader view of what is happening in Jackson County. Students also participate in a selected community project. Projects are selected early in the program and require the students to work in a team to plan and execute actions that will achieve effective results. Time spent on the class project varies with the type of project, but typically class members commit to an additional 10-15 hours.

The community section of the program allows class members to learn about challenges facing Jackson County. The dynamics of this portion is twofold. First, class participants hear from experts regarding what is and can be done to improve the quality of life in our community. Secondly, the class may use this information to decide what areas they will pursue upon graduation from Leadership Jackson. Areas include education, family, agriculture, tourism, community growth, public safety, health and human services, economic development, and government.

### **Leadership Jackson Graduation Requirements**

Participants accepted must live or work in Jackson County or be a member in good standing with the Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce. Graduation from Leadership Jackson requires participants to meet the standards established below. Participation in the scheduled programs, project, and additional requirements are essential to receive maximum benefits of the program.

Leadership Jackson graduation criteria is based on a point system. The maximum number of points allowed is 100. **Ninety (90) points are required to graduate.**

The distribution of points is outlined below.

Activity	Number of Pts	Accumulation / Deduction of Points
Monthly Program Attendance	50	Absence (-) 8 pts. Late arrival (-) 3 pts. Leave early (-) 3 pts.
Retreat Attendance	10	Late arrival (-) 5 pts. Leave early (-) 5 pts.
Project	15	Project itself: 10 pts (Whether points are split is decided after project chosen) Participation: 5 pts.
Meetings/Events**	5	*Jackson County Chamber Board Meeting
	5	*City Council Work Session Meeting / Town Hall Meeting (9 Jackson Co. municipalities)
	5	*Jackson County Board of Commission Meeting
	5	*Board of Education Meeting (any of the three systems in Jackson Co.)
	5	*Attend two Chamber Networking Events
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>	

\*\*An agenda from each of these meetings/events must be submitted for credit to be earned – have it signed by a presenter/staffer. ***Make sure your name is on all submitted paperwork. If your name is not on the agenda, no credit will be given.*** It is suggested to scan and email signed agendas to the Chamber staff liaison so that you keep the original copy.

An overall points status report will be given to each participant in the Spring. This status will determine if the participant is on track to graduate.

All meetings/events\*\* **MUST** be completed and turned in to Melissa Britt by Friday, July 8, 2022.

***IMPORTANT*** - Missing more than two monthly sessions makes a Leadership Jackson participant ineligible to graduate regardless if enough extra credit is obtained to achieve 90 points. In the event a participant becomes ineligible, he or she may finish the year's requirements for credit, make up missed sessions the following year and graduate at that time.

Because some situations may occur causing a class member to lose more than 10 points, extra credit opportunities exist.

The class member will earn two points for each hour of volunteer time spent with the Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce. Volunteer opportunities must be approved by Melissa Britt. Examples of this include volunteering at a chamber event, making member appreciation phone calls or doing member appreciation drop-ins. Other volunteer opportunities may arise

throughout the year that are not listed here. A summary of the volunteer work must be submitted to Melissa Britt at [mbritt@jacksoncountyga.com](mailto:mbritt@jacksoncountyga.com).

The VP of Operations, Melissa Britt, with the Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce is the point of contact for class participants for any issues during the Leadership Jackson program. The Leadership Jackson Program has an advisory board. You will receive a copy of the board members and their contact information at the retreat.

### **Meetings/Events\*\***

**1. Attend a board meeting of the Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce.** Meetings are typically held the third Friday of the month at 8:00 a.m. at Jackson EMC. Meeting times and locations are subject to change. Call the Chamber at 706-387-0300 or visit [www.jacksoncountyga.com](http://www.jacksoncountyga.com).

**2. Attend a city council or Town Hall meeting of a municipality in Jackson County.** If you are an employee of a municipality, you must attend the council meeting of another municipality.

**3. Attend a Jackson County Board of Commissioners meeting.** To obtain the date and time of the board meetings and work sessions, please visit [www.jacksoncountygov.com](http://www.jacksoncountygov.com) or call to inquire about meeting times.

**4. Attend a Board of Education meeting of any of the three school systems.** To obtain the date and time of the board meetings and work sessions, please visit the school system website or call to inquire about meeting times.

- Commerce City Schools:
- Jackson County Schools:
- Jefferson City Schools:

**5. Chamber Networking Events.** Coordinate with the VP of Operations, Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce 706-387-0300. The networking events eligible are those with no cost to attend. If there is a fee associated with the event it will not count towards graduation points. Examples of events that are eligible are: BASH, Women in Business, STAR Student (February), PIE Workshop (September). Other events may apply. Please turn to the rule that Chamber networking events eligible are those with no cost to attend.

### **Junior Leadership Jackson**

As a participant of Leadership Jackson, participants acknowledge they will be interacting with Junior Leadership Jackson participants at different times and occasions throughout the year.

### **Project Presentations**

At the June Chamber Board of Directors meeting, or other designated time in June, the groups will present their project. Each project group member must participate in the preparation for this presentation.