

ABOUT LEADERSHIP TOMPKINS

Leadership Tompkins engages a diverse group of aspiring and existing community leaders in building networks, developing leadership skills, and raising awareness of local issues.



Through the program participants will:

- Hone professional development skills for future leadership roles in Tompkins County
- Build capacity by immersing themselves in the community by participating in several interactive workshops - including facility tours, service outings, volunteer opportunities, training workshops, guest speakers, and networking events
- Set realistic goals for professional and personal leadership development and develop skills that will prepare participants to further their career
- Gain an understanding of key local issues and needs, how those issue areas impact historically and systematically disadvantaged populations
- Expand local network of professional contacts, community leaders, and resources

2026 Program Dates

Retreat: (9 am to 4 pm each day), Thursday March 19th and Friday March 20th

Program Dates: *Lunch provided. 9 am to 4 pm. Various locations around Tompkins County*

April: Thursday the 16th

May: Thursday the 14th

May/June: Service Day TBD

July: Thursday July 16th

Graduation Celebration: Thursday the 6th

Networking Opportunities:

Free Pass to two Tompkins Chamber Business After Hours



Leadership Tompkins Program FAQ

What is the time commitment for the program?

The program kicks off with a two-day retreat in March. Then, there is one monthly session on the second Thursday every month until a graduation celebration in August (with the exception of a service day self-scheduled by the cohort in May or June). The program takes place from approximately 9 am until 4 pm and is hosted at a different site in Tompkins County. We expect program participants to be fully present and attend the full day.

What does the program cost? What does it include?

The program is \$1200 per participant. This includes a specialized leadership assessment (Gallup Strengths Finder), a two-day retreat, interactive leadership development training sessions, presentations and workshops from a variety of community leaders, and all meals and training materials. New this year: Two free passes to a Tompkins Chamber's Business After Hours! Full fee is due by the start of the March retreat, and there are no refunds if a participant drops the program part way through.

My employer can't cover my cost? What are my options?

The program has a limited number of scholarships available for participants representing either a non-profit or a local small business. Please indicate your need when you complete the online application. Your employer can also request to be invoiced quarterly instead of all up front.

I don't know if I can come to every program – what should I do?

The program is designed for full participation from each participant. It is only to your benefit if you attend all elements of the program. It is understandable to miss one day because of an unavoidable conflict, but missing more than one session negatively impacts all the class members. Please have a serious conversation with your employer and set the expectation far in advance that you will need to be out of the office on program days.

Who will I meet? What are the main benefits to joining the class?

In addition to forming a strong bond with your program cohort, you will be given insider access to our top community leaders. Past speakers have included Presidents and VPs of all local colleges & universities, the Mayor of Ithaca and other local government officials, CEOs of local businesses, many Non-Profit Executive Directors, and local dignitaries and experts. Each of the speakers generously offer themselves as resources for all Leadership Tompkins participants and alumni.