

About Leadership Midlothian

Leadership Midlothian prepares leaders to make a contribution to their community. Ideal candidates include up and coming department heads, business owners and entrepreneurs.

Leadership Midlothian has been called “an adult civics class,” because it’s the place where community leaders learn about how their community works. The group spends one full day each month during the school year discovering a different element of the Midlothian community. A full day of touring and learning is dedicated to the following subjects: team building, local history, social services, hospitality, industry, city government, county government, state government, healthcare and education.

Each day begins with an academic component, where students learn leadership through presentations from a leadership expert, local leaders, or through interactive assignments. During the year, the class completes a community project. Self-discovery is learned via the DISC behavioral analysis. The group becomes a team during Orientation where collaborative, team-building exercises are completed.

Over 200 Leadership alumni are found in many committees in and around the Midlothian area, serving on boards of directors for non-profits that make the Midlothian community a better place to live and work.

What to Expect

As a Leadership Midlothian participant, the Chamber will provide the following:

- ◆ Leadership instruction
- ◆ The opportunity to meet with up-and-coming organization leaders, small business owners and entrepreneurs in your community
- ◆ Relationship- building opportunities with like-minded business people
- ◆ Instructional training to develop better leaders in the community
- ◆ A group of class members who care enough to be involved

Leadership Midlothian Guidelines

- ◆ **Attendance:** Attendance is important. Please make every effort to attend all sessions. Each scheduled day of Leadership Midlothian contains eight hours of attendance. Attendance will be counted by the hour. A member who misses part or all of a Leadership day can make up a maximum of eight hours by completing an assignment that applies to the day that was missed. Examples of make-up assignments are:
 - ◆ A police ride along
 - ◆ Attending a City Council meeting (in addition to the requirements)
 - ◆ Attending a School Board meeting (in addition to the requirements)
 - ◆ Attending a City or Chamber Committee or Board meeting (in addition to the requirements)
 - ◆ Other civic duties approved by the Leadership Facilitators

If a member misses more than eight hours, he/she will be given the opportunity to join next year's program for completion of the requirements that lead to graduation. **The Orientation is mandatory, and cannot be made-up.**

The Program Facilitators fully expect that:

- You will make prior arrangements for dropping kids off at school,
 - You will make prior arrangements for handling unexpected emergencies when other people can handle these for you
 - You will make prior arrangements for handling other situations that may impact your attendance
 - You will be on time
 - You will attend the full day's session each and every month
 - You will block the program dates out on your calendar and will not allow avoidable conflicts
- ◆ **Employer support:** Your membership in the Leadership Midlothian program is based on support from your company. You should not participate without it.
 - ◆ **Transportation:** If transportation is provided, you are expected to ride with the group.
 - ◆ **Communication:** Please leave your cell phone turned off during Leadership sessions. Time will be allowed during breaks to check messages.
 - ◆ **Service:** At the end of your Leadership year, you will be invited to use your leadership skills to serve the community in a manner that best fits your skills and interests.

- ◆ **Participation:** Leadership Midlothian is the best way to learn about your community. Please take full advantage of the opportunity by listening carefully when presentations are being made and asking insightful questions when they are asked for. During presentations, we follow a “one conversation at a time” policy and ask you not to carry on side conversations.
- ◆ **Have fun!!!:** Leadership Midlothian is the best mixture of “summer camp” and “school field trip” you will ever experience. Enjoy it!
- ◆ **Make friends:** Leadership Midlothian graduates often report that their best friends in the community were members of their Leadership class.
- ◆ **Other Responsibilities for Class Members:**
 - Send thank you notes to speakers and coordinators for each session
 - Wear nametags (provided by the Chamber)
 - Take pictures and upload to the Leadership Midlothian Facebook page
 - Attend sessions and be present both physically and mentally
 - Be enthusiastic and positive
 - Be on time
 - Be responsive – if you see a need in the community, we urge you to respond

Class Responsibilities after Graduation

After you graduate from Leadership Midlothian, you will be expected to continue your community involvement. Some of the things to expect:

- ◆ You will be expected to help coordinate a session for next year’s Leadership Midlothian class.
- ◆ You will be expected to join a Chamber committee. Information will be provided to you throughout the year that will inform you on Chamber committees and involvement opportunities.
- ◆ You will be expected to support the Leadership Midlothian Alumni functions with your attendance.

Building Leadership Skills

Do's and Don'ts:

DO be on time

- we have tight time frames
- we need to stay on schedule
- speakers adjusted their schedules to fit us in

DO be courteous and attentive

- speakers have volunteered time
- we will be guests when visiting

DON'T spend time on phone taking care of business

- Be committed to allowing 1 day each month to this program
- Handle business that must be taken care of on our breaks
- Realize that one characteristic of a leader is being able to delegate effectively and to enable others to act

DON'T miss more than 1 day (8 hours)

- cannot miss the Orientation
- can miss by "hours"
- must call Chamber President to inform them of absence
- remember you have made this commitment to attend

DO dress in business casual attire

- you will be provided with Leadership Midlothian nametags and are encouraged to wear them when we meet
- we will be guests of area businesses
- wear comfortable shoes
- there will be some days that have special clothing requirements – we will let you know in advance

DO plan to serve on a community service committee after graduation