

THE CHAMBER FOUNDATION, INC.

Sowing the seeds of leadership.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM 2009 - 2010

STUDENT APPLICATION PACKET

THIS PACKET INCLUDES INFORMATION AND FORMS FOR THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM. IN THIS PACKET YOU WILL FIND:

1. Student Application Letter
2. Youth Leadership Program Overview
3. Student Application CHECKSHEET
4. Student Application Form
5. Media Release Form
6. Commitment Form
7. Sharpe Reservation Permission Form
8. *Teacher Recommendation Form #1
9. *Teacher Recommendation Form #2

Be sure to complete Forms 4 – 7 and mail to:

The Chamber Foundation
The Nussbickel Building
2582 South Avenue
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

*Teacher recommendation forms will be mailed directly to The Chamber Foundation by your high school guidance office.

Please mail by June 30, 2009



Founded by the Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce
The Nussbickel Building · 2582 South Avenue, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
Tel: 845.296.0001 · Fax: 845.296.0006 · www.gsdcc.org

Youth Leadership Program
1. STUDENT APPLICATION LETTER

June 17, 2009

Dear Student:

Thank you for your interest in The Chamber Foundation, Inc. Youth Leadership Program. The Chamber Foundation is the educational foundation of the Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce. This program is an opportunity for you to gain more self-confidence and to learn skills and attitudes for success in college and life. It will help enhance your community service, job readiness and leadership skills.

The Youth Leadership Program is a four-year program that includes workshops, field trips, seminars, and an opportunity for a career internship in your senior year. Job leadership, and life skills such as organizational skills, people skills, and problem solving can be achieved through the Youth Leadership Program. Similar leadership programs are valued anywhere from \$350-\$1,500 per year, **but there is no cost to you!**

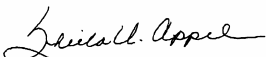
Included in the program is an over-night retreat at the Sharpe Reservation and will be held in September (date to be determined). All accepted students are **required** to attend. Monthly meetings take place on the third Wednesday of each month from 6:45pm – 8:45p.m. **The attendance policy is as follows:** students are allowed to miss only **one** meeting per year without consequence and must submit a written excuse from a parent and/or guardian. Two to three missed meetings require five hours of community service to make up for **each** meeting missed. Anyone missing four or more meetings will be dropped from the program. There will be a special attendance award given to students who have perfect attendance for the full four years! The forms required to apply for this program are enclosed in this packet. **Please note:** you must obtain **two** teacher recommendations that will be mailed to us separately by your high school guidance office.

Please send the enclosed application materials by **June 30, 2009** to:

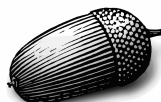
The Chamber Foundation
The Nussbickel Building
2582 South Avenue
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

You will be notified by mail regarding your entry into the program. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Sheila Appel
Chairwoman, Youth Leadership Committee



2. YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Background Information

Leadership is the foundation for what can be accomplished in an individual's personal and professional life. That is why, for the eleventh year, The Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce and The Chamber Foundation, Inc. have chosen to collaborate with area school districts to offer an innovative, four-year program designed to develop the leadership and life skills of area youth.

Youth Leadership is a four-year youth development program for students of various backgrounds, and includes workshops, field trips, seminars, community service, business mentoring, and internships. By the end of the four years, students will gain more self-confidence and learn methods and attitudes needed for success in college and life. The program also affords students leadership and life skills including organizational skills, people skills, and problem solving. Potential leaders are identified in the eighth grade and formal training begins in the ninth grade.

Year 1

The ninth grade program offers a Leadership Retreat at a local camp, where students participate in workshops identifying their personal skills and abilities and reflects on areas for improvement. Teamwork is a major component of the retreat. The student's leadership style is identified and then applied to their role in team participation. In workshops throughout the school year, students will choose a community service project (such as a food drive) and plan the participating role of their three high schools.

Year 2

Tenth grade students attend a Leadership Retreat where they reconnect with their first year teams. Students participate in a virtual enterprise through the Junior Achievement Program. Students work in cooperation with local business leaders to design, capitalize and run their own businesses. In addition, students are required to develop school and community service projects that will grow during the final two years of the program.

Year 3

Juniors participate in a mentoring program with business professionals in the community. Students meet with their mentors monthly to learn about the skills and aptitudes required in the business world. They learn about potential career options in the respective industry. Juniors are also responsible for planning a countywide Career Day where over 30 business and professional leaders participate in roundtable discussions with students to discuss career and life strategies.

Year 4

Seniors, now seasoned leaders in their community, take on some responsibility with facilitating workshops for the Youth Leadership Program. They participate in an internship in a field of their choice, which helps prepare them for their future career. Seniors help to shape future Youth Leadership programming by providing valuable feedback to the coordinators. Seniors are also afforded the opportunity to publicize the program through public speaking opportunities at local community organizations.



Youth Leadership Program
3. STUDENT APPLICATION CHECKSHEET

Materials to be completed and sent to:

**The Chamber Foundation
The Nussbickel Building
2582 South Avenue
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590**

- 4. Student Application Form**
- 5. Media Release Form**
- 6. Student Contract/Commitment Form**
- 7. Sharpe Reservation Permission Form**



Youth Leadership Program
4. STUDENT APPLICATION FORM

Please complete all fields of this application and return to The Chamber Foundation, The Nussbickel Building, 2582 South Avenue, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590 by June 30, 2009.

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Cell Phone (emergency only): _____

High School (as of Fall 2009): _____

Middle School now attending: _____

Please type the answers to the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Use extra paper if necessary.

1. Please list your interests and extracurricular activities (i.e. school, work activities, church, and organizational affiliations).
2. What do you feel to be the most prevalent problem/issue facing youth in our community?
Use complete sentences.
3. Having been identified as a student leader, what do you feel are the three most important qualities a leader should possess and why?
4. Describe an interpersonal problem you had to face recently and tell how you handled it. Were you satisfied with the outcome? What did you learn from this experience?



5. MEDIA RELEASE FORM
For the Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce

I give the Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce and The Chamber Foundation, Inc. permission to use images and/or photographs of my son/daughter_____ to market and promote its education and career development programs. This includes but is not limited to usage in Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce newsletters, direct mail pieces, press releases, Web marketing, and all other electronic media.

Parent/Guardian Full Name (please print)_____

Telephone (day)_____ Telephone (evening)_____

Signature_____ Date_____

Questions? Please contact The Chamber Foundation: (845)296-0001. Thank you!



Youth Leadership Program
6. CONTRACT FOR COMMITMENT FORM

I agree to be an active participant in the Youth Leadership Program throughout the school this year. I will attend the monthly Youth Leadership meetings and participate actively in project work. I will be respectful of the presenters and the other students in the program. I understand that I may miss only one of the nine regularly scheduled meetings. If I miss 2 or more meetings, I will make them up by participating in 5 hours of community service time for every missed meeting such as:

- Facilitating Sharpe Retreat
- Participating in Children’s Services Council Programs
- Community Service above and beyond that required in Youth Leadership
- Participating in the Alzheimer’s Walk in October
- Participation in Youth Bureau programs
- Serving as a YL Committee Leader

I understand that my school advisor and the coordinator will evaluate my performance biannually. I have read the important Youth Leadership policy information I received in this packet.

 Student Signature

 Date

Student Name:	Parent Name:
e-mail address:	Phone #:
Home address:	Emergency Phone #:
	Doctor Name:
School in September 2008:	Doctor Phone:

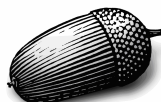
Any special dietary needs, including allergies _____

Medications: _____

PARENTS:

My son/daughter _____ has my permission to participate in the Youth Leadership Program. I agree to arrange for transportation for my child to and from YL meetings. I understand that my child should be at the meeting place 10 minutes prior to meeting start time. Meetings will be on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

PARENT’S SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____



Youth Leadership Program
7. SHARPE PERMISSION FORM 2009-2010

Complete and return the top part of this form to The Chamber Foundation by June 30, 2009. Please save the bottom section for yourself.

STUDENT NAME _____ PARENT NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE # _____

_____ EMERGENCY PHONE # _____

SCHOOL _____ DOCTOR _____

EMAIL _____ DOCTOR'S PHONE # _____

Any special dietary needs, including allergies _____

Medications: _____

I will attend the overnight weekend training at Sharpe reservation **on the to-be-determined September Friday(drop-off 4:30 p.m.) through Saturday (pickup: 4:00 p.m.)**.

Student signature

I agree to bring my daughter/son to Sharpe Reservation and I also agree to pick him/her up on Saturday at 4:00 p.m.

Parent signature

Please sign and mail to: The Chamber Foundation
 The Nussbickel Building
 2582 South Avenue
 Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

PLEASE NOTE: SHARPE RETREAT –Camp Hidden Valley

All food and drinks will be provided, included snacks. Students will be sleeping in cabins. Dress appropriately for the weather. There will be outdoor activities.

Bring sleeping bag, toiletries, towel, flashlight, sneakers, and a change of clothes.

Bring 1-2 items that represent who you are (i.e. book, art, sport item, religious item, music, etc). You will be sharing these items in small groups.



Youth Leadership Program
8. *TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FORM

STUDENT'S NAME _____ **SCHOOL** _____

Students are required to have two teachers submit letters of recommendation. One teacher must be from a core subject area such as Math, Science, Social Studies, and/or ELA.

Please rate applicant on the following criteria:

CRITERIA	1 Rarely meets Standards	2 Below Average	3 Average	4 Above Average	5 Exceeds Standards
HONESTY					
TIMELY					
PLEASANT					
SELF-MOTIVATION					
GOOD LISTENING SKILLS					
FOCUSED					
GOOD SELF-CONTROL					
HELPFUL					
TEAM PARTICIPANT					
HONORS RULES					
HONORS GUIDELINES					
FLEXIBILITY					
PRESENTABLE					
GOOD CHARACTER					

Teachers, please write a paragraph explaining why you think this student would be a good candidate for the Youth Leadership Program:

Teachers: this document is confidential. Please sign and date the document below and return it to your high school guidance department by June 30, 2009.

TEACHER: _____
PRINT NAME SIGNATURE

DATE: _____



Youth Leadership Program
9. *TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FORM

STUDENT'S NAME _____ **SCHOOL** _____

Students are required to have two teachers submit letters of recommendation. One teacher must be from a core subject area such as Math, Science, Social Studies, and/or ELA.

Please rate applicant on the following criteria:

CRITERIA	1 Rarely meets Standards	2 Below Average	3 Average	4 Above Average	5 Exceeds Standards
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TEAM PARTICIPANT					
HONORS RULES					
HONORS GUIDELINES					
FLEXIBILITY					
PRESENTABLE					
GOOD CHARACTER					

Teachers, please write a paragraph explaining why you think this student would be a good candidate for the Youth Leadership Program:

Teachers: this recommendation is confidential. Please sign and date the document below and return it to your high school guidance department by June 30, 2009.

TEACHER: _____
PRINT NAME SIGNATURE

DATE: _____

