



LEADERSHIP COBB

Candidate Information Packet

Overview

Leading by example allows Leadership Cobb participants to directly impact the Cobb community. Fifty-four diverse and qualified individuals are selected annually to participate in this leadership development program. Leadership Cobb enhances personal and professional growth while participants gain awareness of current issues, community resources and the social, political and economic needs of the community.

Why Apply?

Leadership Cobb develops leadership skills and knowledge through its programs and retreats. Participants are introduced to a variety of viewpoints that illustrate the array of economic, political, educational and social factors at work in Cobb County. Sessions combine lectures and dialogue among speakers as well as audience interaction with leaders in all facets of the community.

The Class Year

The 2023-2024 program runs from June 2023 until May 2024. A summary of the full-time commitment is included below:

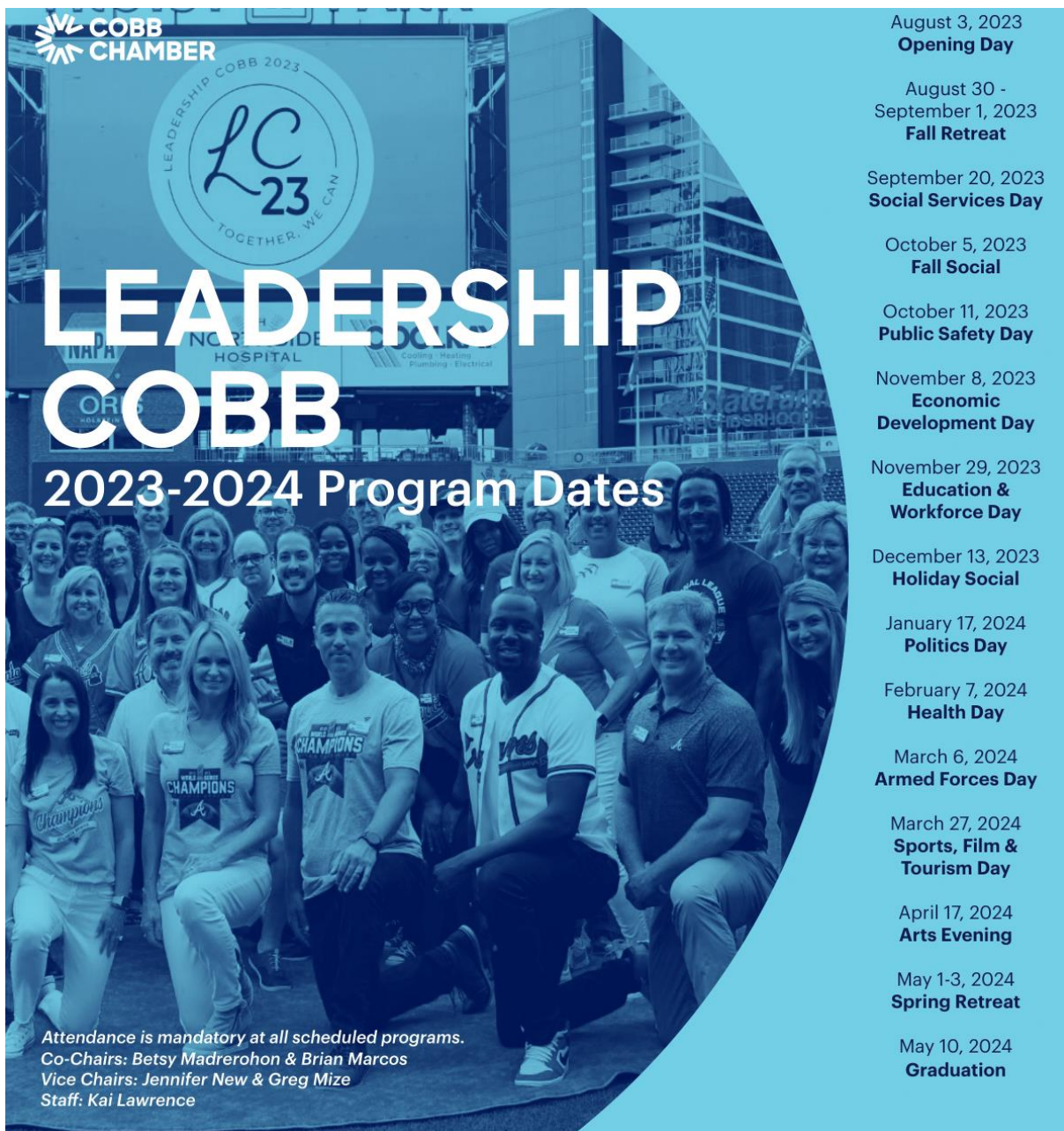
- A one hour assigned Orientation session in June, designed to prepare you for the program. You will be given the option to select a preferred date and time upon selection to the class.
- Two, three-day retreats in September and May. Full participation in both retreats is **mandatory**. Dates are included in the program schedule.
- Eight full-day programs. Dates are included in program schedule. Optional receptions are often held at the end of the program days. For maximum participation, it would be wise to block additional time on your calendar to attend as many of these optional social events as possible.
- Four evening programs/events. Dates are included in program schedule.
- Two Spotlight on Leadership meetings. Dates/times will be provided at a later date. There will be multiple opportunities to choose from throughout the program year.
- Additional time spent outside of structured class programs to be devoted to multiple service opportunities throughout the community over the 10 month program period.

Time Commitment

The time commitment is serious, and participants not complying with the attendance requirements will be dropped from the program. Full attendance at all program events and retreats is mandatory. Full participation in both retreats is also required. Tardiness and leaving early are considered attendance offenses. Please ensure that you and your employer are willing to make such a commitment of your time if you are selected.

The Program Calendar

Please note that the Leadership Cobb program year requires a significant dedication of time and energy.

The graphic features a large group of diverse people, mostly young adults, posing in front of a backdrop. The backdrop includes the Cobb Chamber logo, a circular 'LC 23' logo with the text 'LEADERSHIP COBB 2023' and 'TOGETHER, WE CAN', and various local business logos like NAPA, NORFOLK HOSPITAL, and State Farm. The text 'LEADERSHIP COBB' is prominently displayed in large white letters, followed by '2023-2024 Program Dates' in a slightly smaller white font. A list of dates and events is on the right, and program details are at the bottom left.

LEADERSHIP COBB
2023-2024 Program Dates

Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled programs.
Co-Chairs: Betsy Madrerohon & Brian Marcos
Vice Chairs: Jennifer New & Greg Mize
Staff: Kai Lawrence

August 3, 2023
Opening Day

August 30 - September 1, 2023
Fall Retreat

September 20, 2023
Social Services Day

October 5, 2023
Fall Social

October 11, 2023
Public Safety Day

November 8, 2023
Economic Development Day

November 29, 2023
Education & Workforce Day

December 13, 2023
Holiday Social

January 17, 2024
Politics Day

February 7, 2024
Health Day

March 6, 2024
Armed Forces Day

March 27, 2024
Sports, Film & Tourism Day

April 17, 2024
Arts Evening

May 1-3, 2024
Spring Retreat

May 10, 2024
Graduation

Cost

A tuition fee is required to cover materials, leadership assessment/training expenses, monthly program expenses and retreats. Often employers are pleased to pay part or all of the tuition. If selected, for participation, a minimum of 50% deposit is due on **Friday, June 16**, with the balance due on **Monday, July 17**. Tuition for the Leadership Cobb program is \$4,000.00 for Cobb Chamber members in good standing. Tuition is \$4,400.00 for non-Cobb Chamber members, which includes a one-year Cobb Chamber membership. Leadership Cobb tuition is non-refundable once payment is received.

Financial Aid Opportunities

There are limited, needs-based financial assistance funds available. Applicants who would like to be considered for financial assistance should email Kai Lawrence at klawrence@cobbchamber.org to request an application. Your request for consideration will be held in the utmost confidence, and will in no way affect the selection process.

The deadline to apply for financial assistance is **Monday, March 20, 2023 (in addition to your Leadership Cobb application.)**

Selection Criteria

The application process aims to assess candidates along multiple dimensions, including but not limited to professional accomplishments, community involvement, volunteer service, leadership potential, intellectual curiosity and willingness to grow. At least 70 percent of the participants selected come from the business community or the professions, and up to 30 percent from the social services, government or the field of education.

The selection committee evaluates applicants with the following questions in mind:

- Have they demonstrated impact within their chosen profession?
- Do they show commitment to the community?
- Is the candidate willing to self-reflect and grow personally?
- Do they have the potential to affect change now and in the future?

The selection committee also strives to maintain geographic, racial, age, gender and occupational balance in its selections. Diversity of participants, backgrounds, experiences and opinions is a key ingredient to the success of the Leadership Cobb program.

Please note that while each of the above questions is used as criteria when evaluating applicants, excellent candidates do not necessarily possess every specific qualification sought. A person's potential for growth and for community impact, both now and in the future, is most important.

NOTE: Letters of recommendation, resumes, and CVs will not be considered by the Leadership Cobb Selection Committee and should not be submitted. Also, no consideration will be given during the selection process as to your nominator(s).

Online User Guidelines

To avoid technical difficulties, please review the following online user guidelines to ensure a successful application submission.

- Browser compatibility - We recommend using the latest version of Firefox, Chrome, or Safari. If your browser does not update automatically to its latest version, we suggest doing so before you begin.
- Firewalls - Please be aware that your office firewall could prevent your successful access to the application. Using your company's internet/network may cause technical malfunctions due to restrictions placed on that network by your employer.
- Session / Time Outs - For security purposes, inactivity on the application could lead to time outs of your session. Be ready to submit your application at one time.

- **Do NOT use the "Back" key function** on your web browser when working on your application. Hitting the "back" function may cause the text you have entered to be lost.
- **Do NOT use the 'Enter' key function key** as this action will attempt to submit your application and highlight all required fields left blank.
- **Do not close your browser until you receive submission confirmation.**
- Make sure all fields are completed, as an incomplete application will not be submitted.

Tips for Application Success

- Save your answers in a separate document to avoid losing your work if technical difficulties arise. This is especially helpful for short answer and essay questions.
- Complete and submit the online application and attached commitment form by **Monday, March 20, 2023**. Applications will not be accepted after the deadline.
- Each section of the application will be reviewed and assigned a weighted score by selection committee members. You are strongly encouraged to include as much information as possible, and not to leave any section blank.
- The Leadership section on the application is most heavily weighted. Answering every question completely and thoroughly is highly encouraged.
- Ask someone you know to review your application before submitting it. Feedback from a trusted source can be very helpful in crafting a competitive application.

"I remember when we started; someone told me that this would be a life changing experience. I remember thinking to myself, 'this person must not have lived a very full life if the Leadership Cobb program had changed their life.' I can't speak for my entire class, but this program has been a life changing experience for me. I've taken the lessons from this program and have started incorporating them into my business and my personal life. I am more involved now with my community than I have ever been, and I know that this will never change. I've learned the meaning of REAL "servant leadership". Giving back, getting involved, and how just one person can make such a powerful impact in a community. I would NEVER have gained this experience in such a short amount of time if it hadn't been for Leadership Cobb."

– Shane Garrison, LC'14, Puckett EMS

"Don't view Leadership Cobb as your typical leadership development program- it is so much more than that! This will be a game changer if you invest in the programs and relationships with both heart and mind. Set a goal to have one-on-one conversations with every classmate throughout the year. This will ensure you create a unique connection with everyone that you can build on throughout the year. Be vulnerable in these conversations and really open up. You will be amazed how you will rely on your classmates and how many moments in life your classmates will need your strength and support."

– Andrew Cox, LC'17, Wellstar Health System

