Program Overview

Leadership Abbeville is a unique opportunity for emerging and/or existing business and industry professionals to build better leaders and stronger networks through in-depth seminars, leadership development, and experiential learning opportunities aimed directly at impacting Abbeville County. The 9-month program begins with a mandatory two-day, one-night retreat, during which the class will deep dive into applied leadership skills that will be utilized throughout the rest of the program. Full-day sessions are held on the first Wednesday in the eight subsequent months. Sessions topics include:

* Local & State Government
* Arts and Culture
* Business, Industry, and Economic Development
* Community Health & Wellbeing
* Education
* History
* Regional Connectivity
* Community Service

Sessions include a combination of guest speakers, facility tours, and hands-on activities. The program also aims to promote team building and problem-solving skills through self-identified volunteer projects designed to prepare and motivate participants to provide quality, dynamic leadership within the area based around local issues. Graduates will leave with a commitment to assume their responsibility as “community leaders” and be well-positioned to educate their peers, coworkers, and potential residents about Abbeville County.

Mission: Develop proactive, forward-thinking leaders that can identify and offer unique solutions to specific Abbeville County issues

Vision: Have a pipeline of innovate business and community leaders who are engaged in moving Abbeville forward

Objectives:

* Increase awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the community by examining local systems and sectors of the local economy
* Experience vital community issues first-hand
* Develop future community and business leaders of Abbeville County who are positioned to respond to the social and economic needs
* Increase leadership capacity to influence change and innovate the way we do business in Abbeville
* Establish relationships that will provide new business opportunities

Tuition: $1,000 payable upon acceptance

##### Selection Considerations:

* Anyone who lives or works in Abbeville County is eligible to participate
* Commitment to personal and professional growth
* Commitment and motivation to serve the community
* Commitment to improving the community’s quality of life and economic development
* Commitment to attendance and participation in all activities
* Employer’s support of participant
* Participant’s willingness to assist in future Leadership Abbeville programs as time permits

A resume and/or a letter of recommendation is *optional* and not required. All applicants are reviewed by a selection committee and final participants are selected from all applications submitted.

2025 Leadership Abbeville Application

## Application Deadline is **Friday, December 6th**

Submissions will be accepted via email to awalker@abbevillecountysc.com or by mail to
903 West Greenwood St.
Suite 2600
Abbeville, SC 29620

Name: Full Name Email: Best Contact Email

Home Address: Address City, State Zip.

Personal Phone: (xxx) xxx-xxxx Work Phone: (xxx) xxx-xxxx

Gender: (check one) [ ] Male [ ]  Female

Employer: Name Job Title: Title

Employer Address: Address City, State Zip

Supervisor: Full Name Supervisor Email: Work Email

How long have you lived or worked in Abbeville?

Answer Here

Describe your current volunteer activities in any community, civic, religious, cultural, professional organization, etc. list responsibility/position held and dates of service.

Answer Here

Why are you interested in participating in Leadership Abbeville and what are your expectations from the program?

Answer Here

What do you feel are three assets Abbeville County has and why?

Answer Here

What do you feel are the three most significant challenges facing Abbeville County and why?

Answer Here

Participation and Sponsorship Form

**To successfully complete the Leadership Abbeville program, participants are expected to participate in the overnight retreat, eight full-day sessions, and a year-end, after hours graduation program.**

Name of Applicant Full Name

Sponsorship (please check appropriate sponsorship category):

[ ]  Sponsored by employer / company
[ ]  Self-sponsored (applicant will pay program fee)

### To be completed by the applicant’s sponsor or supervisor

This candidate has my full support to participate in Leadership Abbeville. I am aware of the time commitment involved in his/her effective participation, as well as the financial obligation.

(Must be signed by applicant’s sponsor unless the applicant is self-employed or is the CEO.)

Name of Sponsor/Supervisor Full Name

Title Title

Organization Organization

Address Address City, State Zip

Email address Work Email Telephone Number (xxx) xxx-xxxx

Relationship to applicant (i.e., immediate supervisor, CEO, etc.) Relationship to Applicant

[ ]  I understand that the tuition for Leadership Abbeville is $1,000 payable to the Abbeville County Economic Development Partnership. Our organization will pay in full.

[ ]  Our organization is willing to provide financial assistance in the amount of $ \_\_\_\_ towards the candidate’s tuition.

Sponsor’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ October 25, 2024

### To be completed by the applicant

**I understand and accept the goals and commitments of the Leadership Abbeville program, and if selected, I will devote the time and resources necessary for successful completion of the program.**

Signature October 25, 2024



Tentative Meeting Schedule

February 20-21 Opening Retreat

March 5 Abbeville History

April 2 Quality of Life

May 7 Government Day

June 4 Business, Industry, and Economic Development

July 2 Community Health & Wellbeing

August 6 Regional Connectivity

September 3 Education Day

October 1 Community Issues/Make-Up Day

November 5 Graduation