

Youth LEAD



Class #15 applications are open!

Youth LEAD is a leadership program of the Paducah Chamber and the Leadership Paducah Alumni Association through The Leadership Center. The program educates high school juniors across McCracken County about the different sectors in the community and the opportunities our area has to offer. Class #15 begins in October!

Important Dates

Applications Open: *Now!*

Applications Close: *Friday, Sept. 12 @ 5pm CT*

Selected Participants Notified: *No later than Oct. 2*

Participation Fee Due: *Oct. 15. \$150 non-refundable fee. Scholarships available for students with demonstrated financial need.*

Opening Retreat/First Class: *Oct. 15*

All other program dates can be found on the back of this sheet.

How to Apply

- 1 Scan the QR Code below or go to www.paducahchamber.org.
- 2 Go to the **Programs** tab on the menu bar.
- 3 Select **Youth LEAD** at the bottom of the list.
- 4 Click **Youth LEAD Class #15 Application** to start your application.
- 5 **Submit your application by Friday, September 12 @ 5pm CT!** Scan the QR Code below to start your application.



Leadership • Education • Development
YOUTH LEAD

LEADERSHIP PADUCAH
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Class #14 at Graduation



Students volunteering at WKY Launch

Helpful Tips

- Apply early. Don't wait until the last day!
- It is your responsibility to review the application instructions on the form thoroughly.
- Letters of reference must be uploaded and submitted with your application.
- Questions? We are here to help. Reach out to your school counselor or call the Paducah Chamber.

What is Youth LEAD?

Youth LEAD is a program designed to develop and prepare students for future community support and leadership roles in Paducah / McCracken County. Youth LEAD is open for high school juniors in Paducah Independent, McCracken County, St. Mary and Community Christian Academy.

The students spend one day a month for five months learning about teamwork, human needs and service learning, communications and career development, business and economy, law and government, and health care.

The program is coordinated by the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce and Leadership Paducah Alumni Association.

Selection Process

Each school will review their applications and submit their chosen nominees to the Chamber. The applications will then be reviewed by a selection committee made up of representatives of the Leadership Paducah Alumni Association and Paducah Chamber Boards. Participants will be selected based upon the information provided in the application, the recommendation letters and quality of the applications. Youth LEAD is a competitive opportunity and it is anticipated that not all students who apply will be selected. Students accepted to the program will be notified by October 2, 2025.

Eligibility – The program is open to high school students who are enrolled as juniors in the 2025-2026 school year.

Application Availability – Applications are available online from the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce website:

paducahchamber.org, go to Programs, and then to Youth LEAD and to Youth LEAD Application.

Application Due Date – The deadline to submit your application is **Friday, September 12, 2025, at 5 p.m. CT**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. It is the student's responsibility to have the completed application and two letters of reference submitted by the deadline. The student is expected to alert their school counselor they plan to apply.

Fee – A \$150 non-refundable participation fee for students selected is due by October 15, 2025. Scholarships are available for students with demonstrated financial need.

2025-2026 Program Dates

- **Opening Retreat/Class** – October 15, 2025
- **2nd Class** – November 5, 2025
- **3rd Class** – December 3, 2025
- **4th Class** – January 7, 2026
- **5th Class** – February 4, 2026
- **6th Class** – March 4, 2026
- **Graduation** at Paducah Chamber Breakfast – April 2, 2026



Youth LEAD is a program administered by the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce with assistance from the Leadership Paducah Alumni Association through The Leadership Center.