



## “The Emerging Excellence of Hernando County”



**2025 Leadership Hernando Application Due by Monday, September 30, 2024**

**Thank you for your interest in Leadership Hernando!** Since 1991, Leadership Hernando has sought to identify individuals most likely to utilize their leadership abilities for the long-term benefit of Hernando County. Over the past 33 years, the Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce has been presenting this program to the business community, graduating over 800 business professionals who have gone on to become remarkable Hernando County community leaders.

This leadership program was designed to explore critical issues through a series of seminars and hands-on activities. Our program includes topics such as: the history of Hernando County; leadership skills; tourism; agriculture; health and human services; law enforcement and First Responders; economic and business development; government; media, and more.

We are committed to creating new county knowledge. Our program Steering Committee is made up of Leadership Hernando Alumni who are armed with practical knowledge so we can continually advance the content of this program. This Steering Committee will determine the composition of each class assuring diversity from a variety of businesses, non-profits, educational institutions, government agencies, cultures, and functional backgrounds. Class-size is limited, and commitment to the program remains paramount.

Approximately twenty (20) individuals will be selected to participate in the program following an interview process by the Steering Committee. Since the number of appointments to Leadership Hernando is limited, applicants who are not selected are encouraged to reapply in a future year.

Leadership Hernando participants are selected based on the following criteria:

- ✓ Live or work in Hernando County.
- ✓ Have the full support of the organization, corporation, or company they represent.
- ✓ Have a sincere interest and are motivated to serve the community.
- ✓ Have the commitment and enthusiasm to utilize their leadership abilities for the long-term benefit of Hernando County.
- ✓ May be interested in seeking, or intend to seek, public office, boards, commissions, or key volunteer roles.
- ✓ Have potential opportunities for advancement to top leadership positions within their organizations.
- ✓ Represent all segments of the community.
- ✓ Have a commitment to play a personal role in helping to shape Hernando County's future.
- ✓ Have a professional appearance and demeanor.

The program strives for classes that represent the geographic, occupational, gender, ethnic, and other diversities of our area which includes public, not for profit, private, and large and small businesses.

Additional questions may be addressed to the Leadership Hernando team via email:  
[Leadership@HernandoChamber.com](mailto:Leadership@HernandoChamber.com).

### ***Application Instructions***

- All applications must be submitted electronically. *Hard copy applications will NOT be accepted.*
- A cover letter must be included. Each section must be completed, attach additional sheets if necessary.
- Submit your application by the deadline of **Monday, September 30, 2024**, via email to [Leadership@HernandoChamber.com](mailto:Leadership@HernandoChamber.com).

## ***Leadership Hernando Applicant Information***

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Company Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Company Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/ State/ Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/ State/ Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Primary Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact:**     *Name, Phone, Relationship*

\_\_\_\_\_

**How long have you been a Hernando County resident?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hobbies/Interests:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why are you applying for Leadership Hernando? Why you should be chosen for this year's Class?**

**Describe your personality in three sentences or less, then list one unusual or "fun" fact about yourself.**

In your opinion, what are the three greatest challenges facing Hernando County today? Give any recommendations for approaching and/or resolving these issues (use additional paper if necessary).

Any dietary needs/restrictions/allergies/food allergies? \_\_\_\_\_

If YES, please provide examples of what you CAN eat: \_\_\_\_\_

Polo shirt size:  S  M  L  XL  2XL  3XL  4XL

Are there any accommodations you may need in order to make this experience more accessible for you (mobility accommodations, visual, audible, spatial, or other)?

**Education** *(Include highest level of education and/or specialized training)*

**Name and Location of School**

**Dates (from/to) / Degree/Major**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Extracurricular Activities/Leadership Positions/Awards**

## ***Employment***

Is your current employer a Chamber Member? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Industry: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe your current job:

List previous employment for the past 10 years (add additional sheets if necessary)

<i>Employer</i>	<i>Title/Responsibility</i>	<i>From/To</i>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

What do you consider your highest professional achievement?

## ***Community Service/ Professional Affiliations***

List community, civic, professional, religious, social, athletic and any other business organization or club of which you are/have been a member of during the past 10 years.

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Position Held/Contribution</i>	<i>Period of Affiliation</i>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

What do you consider your most important accomplishment in one of these organizations? Why?

On average, how much time each month do you commit to volunteer activities?

What kinds of additional volunteer activities would you like to become active with in the future?

If you have not previously had the time or interest to become actively involved, what conditions have changed that now enable you to seek involvement in your community?

### **References**

1) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

3) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Tuition**

The cost to participate in this program is inclusive of the official Leadership Hernando polo shirt\*, name badge, seminar materials, field trips, refreshments, transportation, meals, and the graduation ceremony. Additionally, the tuition cost also includes lodging, dinner, and lunch if participant chooses to attend Hernando County Day at the Capitol. If accepted into **Leadership Hernando**, you/your employer will be billed for the tuition fee which is due upon receipt of the invoice.

Tuition:

- **\$1,250 for Chamber Members**
- **\$1,500 for non-Chamber Members**

The tuition paid for Leadership Hernando may be tax deductible as a business expense but consult your tax advisor. Tuition must be paid prior to Orientation, or you will not be allowed to attend.

\*If an additional (or different) official Leadership Hernando polo shirt or nametag needs to be ordered (due to loss, damage) it will be at the expense of the participant/participant's employer.

Partial scholarships may be available for **non-profit** organizations. Please submit a letter of need with this application.

## **Commitment**

**Participants are expected to attend ALL sessions, each of which will last a full day (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.). To graduate, a participant must attend *Orientation, Team Building, SIMSOC, and Graduation.***

**Advanced notification of a potential missed day, excluding emergencies, must be submitted to Day Leader(s) at least 24 hours prior to class.**

“I understand the purposes of the Leadership Hernando program, and, if I am selected, will devote the time and resources necessary to complete the program. I understand that even though emergencies do arise, any participant missing Orientation, Team Building, SIMSOC, or Graduation, or more than two program sessions for whatever reason, will not be allowed to graduate from the program and no portion of the tuition will be refunded. I agree to be bound by the above commitments by signing this application.”

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**Applicant Name (print)**

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**Date**

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**Applicant Signature**

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**Date**

“I fully support this candidate’s application. I understand the Leadership Hernando time commitment as well as Class Schedule (including all day sessions January to June, plus class orientation and graduation) for this employee should they be selected for the program. I understand that tuition must be paid prior to the start of the program.”

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**Employer/Supervisor Contact Name (print)**

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**Date**

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**Employer/Supervisor Signature**