



Application Process

Youth Leadership Rutherford (YLR) actively recruits rising seniors within Rutherford County. A maximum of forty students are chosen to participate each year. Participants are selected on their own merits through an application and interview process conducted by representatives of Leadership Rutherford, the adult leadership program.

The YLR program tuition is \$250.00 per student. Tuition covers all costs of the program - meals, most transportation, and materials. Tuition must be paid before the start of the program in August.

*Scholarships are limited, but available. **Please contact Kara Carpenter for additional information regarding scholarship opportunities.***

Application Process:

Online applications for the new class are now available.

Completed applications are due **Friday, February 27th, 2026, at 4:30 pm.** Late applications will not be accepted.

- Applicants will [apply through an online application](#) with more information available on the [YLR webpage](#). High school leadership will also be able to provide the link.
- **This application must be completed in one sitting.**
- You are required to give your thoughts on these two items. We recommend you prepare your answers in advance.
 - Why are you applying to be part of the YLR program?
 - In a paragraph, name someone within the community or from history that you feel exhibits character and leadership traits that you would like to possess.
- You should have the required documents below scanned, saved as a PDF and ready to upload before you begin.
 - Resume, saved as a PDF file.
 - One letter of recommendation, including name, title, and contact information, describing why you would be a good candidate for this program. These letters may be from a teacher, school counselor, or principal at your current school. They could also be from any adult who knows you well, not a parent or relative, for example: employer, coach, or youth pastor. Please scan and save this as a PDF file.
 - A professional looking headshot with a neutral background. Head and shoulders only.

Criteria for selection include:

- Incoming high school senior
- Demonstrate interest in leadership positions in school and/or community
- Desire for personal growth opportunities

- Commitment to completion of entire program
- Resume
- Letter of recommendation
- Headshot

Phase 1: Applications reviewed

If selected in Phase 1, students will continue to Phase 2

Phase 2: In Person Interview

- Students will have a panel interview with Leadership Rutherford alumni.
- These interviews are scheduled the week of April 27th.

If selected in Phase 2, students will continue to Phase 3

Phase 3: Acceptance & Consent to Complete the Program

- Students will be notified of acceptance in May.
- Students and parents must sign that they commit to full program participation.