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## *Selection Criteria*

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Leadership Rutherford participants are selected through a competitive application process led by the Leadership Rutherford Selection Committee. Each class is thoughtfully chosen to reflect the diversity, talent, and strength of our community. No applicant is automatically accepted into the program, and all candidates are evaluated through the same review process.

The Selection Committee considers applicants broadly and values qualities such as:

- A demonstrated commitment to community service and volunteerism through past and present involvement
- Proven leadership within their organization, profession, or community
- A desire to engage, connect, and learn alongside leaders from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives
- Motivation to make a meaningful impact in Rutherford County, including service on nonprofit boards, committees, and community initiatives
- A commitment to fully participate in all Leadership Rutherford program sessions, volunteer requirements, and related activities
- Applicants must live or work in Rutherford County, have at least two years of full-time work experience, and be 25 years of age or older

The Leadership Rutherford Selection Committee works diligently to build a class that represents a broad cross-section of our community. The diversity of experiences, industries, and perspectives within each class creates the meaningful relationships, personal growth, and collaborative learning that make the program so impactful.

Class size is limited. Applications must be received by May 22, 2026. Handwritten applications will not be accepted.