

LEADERSHIP



Fact Sheet

THE LEADERSHIP DALTON-WHITFIELD PROGRAM builds and strengthens a better community through training its leaders for the challenges of tomorrow. It is a program of the Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce and it began in 1986 and now has approximately 1239 graduates!

THE GOAL of Leadership Dalton-Whitfield is to develop informed leaders and channel their ideas and experiences toward community resources, issues and concerns to help direct the future of Dalton and Whitfield County. This goal is achieved by programs, informal discussions and participatory experiences.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE? The Leadership Advisory Committee solicits and reviews nominations for the program. Participants are those who have been identified as having an interest in the community and a sincere commitment to making Dalton and Whitfield County a better place to work and live. Participants are chosen to represent the occupational and demographic diversity in the community. No age limit is observed when selecting program participants.

THE CURRICULUM includes a one day retreat in late August, one full day session per month from September through April and a commencement activity in May. Each program session concentrates on a specific area of the community using panel discussions, speakers, special presentations and participatory experiences. A homework assignment is to be completed prior to each session and usually takes approximately two hours to complete.

TOPICS COVERED include local government, the judicial system, local economics, quality of life, the education system, medical services, state government, volunteerism and leadership skills.

THE COST for Leadership Dalton-Whitfield is \$1,000, which includes all retreat expenses, meals at the monthly programs, materials needed throughout the year, transportation for the state government session and graduation fees.

SCHOLARSHIPS are available to a limited number of participants. For more information, contact Phyllis Stephens at the Chamber of Commerce (706-712-0951).

COMMENCEMENT is held in May. Participants and their spouses, as well as alumni, are invited to enjoy a festive evening, receive yearbooks, and celebrate the year's highlights. Diplomas are awarded only to those participants who have missed no more than two programs.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS are as follows: the kick-off retreat is mandatory and all participants are expected to attend all session on time. However if a participant cannot attend all sessions, two missed sessions are allowed and they are eligible to graduate. Any person who misses more than two sessions will not be able to graduate. The participant will be eligible for graduation the following year upon attending a sufficient number of those sessions missed the previous year.

THE BENEFITS for Leadership Dalton-Whitfield participants include learning specific leadership skills, gaining a broad base exposure to the community, meeting peers in other fields and forming friendships and networks to benefit professional and volunteer activities. In addition, the community gains a group of trained leaders who have developed a heightened sense of civic concern and responsibility.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT is for large and small business people, community volunteers, professionals, civic/government employees and **YOU!**

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a program of the Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce
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