

LEADERSHIP JOPLIN

A Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce Program

2026 Class Sessions

Please note: If class is cancelled due to inclement weather, the make up date will be scheduled for the following Thursday.

January 15, 3:00—5:00 pm
Welcome Mixer

February 4 and 5
7:15 am February 4—4:15 pm February 5
Overnight Two Day Opening Retreat
Maranatha Bible Camp

February 19, 8:00 am— 4:30 pm
Education and Nonprofit

March 5, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Communication and Media

March 25 and 26
7:30 am March 25—6:30 pm March 26
Jefferson City Trip

April 9, 8:00 am—4:30 pm
Economic Development

April 30, 8:30 am—4:30 pm
Public Safety

May 14, 8:00 am—5:00 pm
City Tour

May 28, 7:30 am—4:30 pm
Health Care

June 4, 8:30 am—3:30 pm
Teambuilding and Motive Matters

June 11, 6 pm—8 pm
Graduation

Engaging Future Community Leaders

Leadership Joplin is a program developed by the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation and sponsored by community businesses to identify, cultivate and motivate future community leaders. Leadership Joplin is in its 43rd year with more than 1,139 graduates. This informative and thought-provoking program introduces participants to the community, exposes them to its challenges and requires them to fully participate in the 9-session curriculum. In addition, Leadership Joplin provides a strategic curriculum to enhance participants' leadership skills and creates a dialogue for discussion on relevant topics and assessment of case studies, ultimately supporting the Chamber's strategic initiatives and goals. Anyone who has a genuine interest in community leadership and wants to broaden their scope of knowledge beyond their current level is encouraged to apply to Leadership Joplin.

By the end of Leadership Joplin, participants will:

- Cultivate and develop leadership skills, making a positive impact personally and professionally
- Develop an enhanced view and a new meaning to the word community
- Recognize interactions between private citizens and public organizations
- See Joplin in terms of the "big picture"
- Develop relationships with classmates, presenters & Leadership Joplin Alumni
- Gain valuable networking contacts with community, business and industry leaders
- Be prepared to serve the community and know the service opportunities available
- Understand Joplin

The 2026 Leadership Joplin Program—Attendance

Each Leadership Joplin session is different. Whether it's a lively panel discussion, an interesting field trip or a group activity, each session is specifically designed to expose participants to all aspects of a particular topic. Although the preliminary schedule shows the commitment required, it is important to understand the expectation of attendance at all sessions. One individual's failure to attend diminishes the experience for the remaining members of the program. Participation and attendance are the cornerstones of a successful program. It is an intensive program, from January through June with work outside of class time. If your schedule does not allow your full participation, you should consider whether Leadership Joplin is right for you at this time.

Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce

320 East 4th Street
Joplin, MO 64801

Phone: 417.624.4150
www.joplincc.com



2026 LJ Steering Committee



A Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce Program

The Selection Process

Because no more than 30 individuals can participate in Leadership Joplin, it is necessary to have an application and commitment process. Participation is limited to two applicants from each member business. Each potential participant must submit a completed application and tuition payment for \$1000 to be considered for the program. In addition to reviewing each individual's qualifications, the committee strives for a broad spectrum of experience and background. The class, as a whole, will benefit greatly from interaction with a wide variety of people from unique organizations.

Leadership Joplin is based on the following individual criteria:

- **Completed application and tuition payment must be received by Friday, November 14, 2025, 5 p.m. Please submit this asap as the first 30 qualified applicants will be accepted.**
- Involvement in professional and/or managerial positions
- Demonstrates ability and desire to assume greater community leadership responsibility
- A clear willingness to make a commitment to the demands of the program and the community
- Proof of the full support of the organization or business they represent and a member of JACC

Applicants will be notified of their acceptance into the program by Friday, November 21, 2025.

Class Participation

As part of the 2026 Leadership Joplin program, you will be working with Motive Matters - Van & Tammy Benson, executive trainers. You will be required to take the "Color Code" assessment to help you better understand what motivates you, and how it relates to the other members of your class. This has proven to be a valuable part of the bonding process. Motive Matters was developed to help people understand themselves and others better, and to learn how to communicate more clearly and more effectively with people both personally and professionally.

After acceptance to LJ 2026, you will receive an introduction letter that will include the link and instructions for you to take the profile test and determine your color code.

The test must be completed prior to Friday, December 19, 2025.

When you are answering these questions, it is important that you try to answer the questions as if you were back in your childhood. As we live our lives, our true motives can sometimes be altered by life experiences, and we want to know your inner core values. We look forward to getting to know another great group of Joplin Leaders!

Tammy and I look forward to meeting you and sharing the Motive Matters message of great relationships with you. We have enjoyed the friendships we have created with professionals just like you, while working with our great Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations on your decision to become part of the Leadership Joplin Class of 2026!

Best of living,

Van and Tammy Benson

Kat DeGraff
Arvest Bank
Class of 2023

Brandy Miller-Turner
Freeman Health System
Class of 2019

Shawn Dodson
Joplin Police Department
Class of 2015

Neely Myers
Schroeder Family Explorem
Class of 2025

Kaycia Frieden
Leggett and Platt
Class of 2024

Isaac Norman
Commerce Bank
Class of 2018

Ronda Friend
Mercy Hospital Joplin
Class of 2024

Josh Oathout
OWN, Inc.
Class of 2023

Tom Furrh
Innovative Industries Inc.
Class of 2020

Heather Ogden
American Ramp Company
Class of 2024

Ryan Jackson
Arcwood Environmental LLC
Class of 2006

Sean Parks
Southwest Missouri Bank
Class of 2015

Gina Langston
Joplin Schools
Class of 2022
2026 Chair

Shawn Patterson
Bug Zero Pest Services
Class of 2023
2026 Co-Chair

Tera Lankard
Arvest Bank
Class of 2019

Shelby Riggs
Missouri Southern State
University
Class of 2024

Heather Lesmeister
Spiva Center for the Arts
Class of 2015

Chris Roberts
New Heights Christian Academy
Class of 2012

Stephanie McGrew
Joplin Area Chamber of
Commerce
Class of 2005

Leadership Joplin



Mission

To identify, cultivate and motivate future leaders.



Your completed application & payment must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, November 14, 2025

Please submit to: **Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce ~ Attention: Stephanie McGrew ~ 320 East 4th Street ~ Joplin, MO 64801**

www.joplincc.com ~ stephanie@joplincc.com

Applicant Information (Please Print)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Title: _____ Years in Current Job: _____ Years in Joplin: _____

Business Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Birthday: _____

Business Phone: _____ Business Email: _____

Business Website: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Have you participated in a leadership program in another community?

If yes, describe. _____

What do you expect to gain from participation in Leadership Joplin?

List community organizations in which you play an active role.

The highest form of leadership is service. In Leadership Joplin, each class completes a hands-on service project that intentionally applies leadership principles to create a lasting impact on the community. Unlike traditional volunteering, which can be a one-time commitment, this project challenges participants to use their leadership skills in ways that foster long-term community benefits.

List suggestions for your class service project:

For more information about applying
to Leadership Joplin, please contact:

Stephanie McGrew

Director of Member Engagement
Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce

417.624.4150

stephanie@joplincc.com

Leadership Joplin Class of 2005



Worth Your Time

Although the application and selection process for Leadership Joplin is challenging, and the commitment of time and energy is extensive, anyone who has been through the program will confirm how beneficial this program is to anyone interested in taking a leadership role in the community. If you have questions about the program, feel free to contact any of the 2026 Leadership Joplin Steering Committee members. They are graduates of the program and are more than happy to talk about what it did for them.

Class Attendance

Many volunteers, sponsors and speakers work hard to make this a valuable program. Attendees are expected to be on time and attend the entire program each day. Absences or tardies must be approved, in advance, by the Committee Co-Chairs or Chamber program director. If more than two sessions are missed, attendees could be dropped from the class and be asked to re-apply for the next year. It is the discretion of the Chamber program director and Committee Co-Chairs to determine graduation eligibility.

Attendance at the opening retreat and the Jefferson City trip each count as two sessions. Concepts discussed during the opening retreat set the foundation for the entire program. If you cannot attend this session, we recommend waiting for next year.

Employer's Agreement

I fully support the application of

_____ to the 2026 Leadership Joplin Program. I am aware of the time commitment necessary and the financial obligation.

Signed (employer): _____

Date: _____

Print name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

Applicant's Agreement

If selected as a participant in Leadership Joplin, I am willing to attend all the functions sponsored by the program and I understand that attendance is mandatory. I understand that if I fail to meet any of the obligations of the program, I may be asked to withdraw or might not graduate with my class. If accepted to participate in 2026 Leadership Joplin, I agree that the information contained on this application may be used for Leadership Joplin promotions, activities and projects, as deemed appropriate by the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Tuition

Completed application and tuition payment of \$1000 must be received by Friday, November 14, 2025, 5 p.m. Please submit this asap as the first 30 qualified applicants will be accepted. If you are not accepted for admission to the 2026 Leadership Joplin class, your tuition will be refunded in full.

Submit a check payable to the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce or pay by credit card:

MasterCard Visa Discover American Express

Account #: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Billing Address: _____

Billing Zip Code: _____ SEC: _____

Email Address to Send Receipt: _____