High School Program
Application for 2017 Class

Mission

Through providing education and experiences, the Hancock Youth Leadership Academy seeks to develop courage, character and service in the young people of Hancock County, ulitmately forming the leaders of tomorrow.

Target Participants:

1. Balance academics and multiple activities while prioritizing this program.
2. Be open-minded, have a positive attitude and the capacity to problem solve and enhance leadership skills.
3. Must demonstrate a commitment to our community.
4. Can make a unique contribution to the program.

Program Description

High school juniors from Hancock County will be selected for the Hancock Youth Leadership Academy High School Program. The class will meet for nine sessions and an overnight retreat. The sessions below are tentative and may change depending on availability of funding.

Session 1:	January 18th	Orientation, Leadership
Session 2:	February 12th, 13th	Your State Government (Jackson-overnight retreat)
Session 3:	March 22th	Your Local Government
Session 4:	April 12th	Hancock County Assets (Stennis Space Center)
Session 5:	May 3th	Hancock County Assets (Stennis Airport and Port Bienville)
SUMMER		INDEPENDENT PROJECT
Session 6:	August 23th	Community Day
Session 7:	September 19th, 20th	College Cruise
Session 8:	October 18th	Hancock County Assets (Small business/entrepreneurship)
Session 9:	November 15th	Launch Day
Graduation:	December 6th	Graduation

*Dates may change slightly if school calendars require. Please review carefully for conflicts.

Requirements

- Applicants must be a high school junior or home-schooled equivalent.
- Applicants must live or go to school in Hancock County.
- Applicants must have a 3.0 grade point average and be able to manage absences.
- Applicants must secure a completed Recommendation Form from a teacher, counselor or principal.
- The cost of the program is $250. Applicants may request a scholarship through the school they attend.

- Applicants must submit a photograph of themselves with the application.
- Applicants must submit a two-page typed personal statement.
- In order to complete the program, class members must attend the program in its entirety. An unexcused absence will result in dismissal from the program.
- Class members must agree to abide by all Hancock Youth Leadership Academy policies and procedures.

Application process

1. It is the responsibility of the applicant, not the school, to submit the application. Applications **WILL NOT** be accepted from the school directly.
2. Applications must be **RECEIVED in the Hancock Resource Center office no later than 4:00pm on Monday, October 24, 2016.** All applications can be submitted by mail, FED EX, UPS or hand delivered to the Hancock Resource Center office. Faxed applications and email applications **will not** be permitted. **Applications must be RECEIVED BY Monday, October 24, 2016!**
3. Other than a photograph, the recommendation form and the personal statement required, no attachments are permitted. The recommendation form is to be submitted in a separate sealed envelope and included with the application packet or sent directly to the Hancock Resource Center office.
4. Applications **must be** complete to be considered.
5. Applicants must attend an interview with members of the selection committee. Interviews will be held on Wednesday, November 9th, at the Hancock Resource Center.
6. The Hancock Youth Leadership Academy Selection Committee will select approximately 20-30 participants based upon potential leadership as well as gender, ethnic and geographic diversity.
7. Letters notifying applicants of the selection committee results will be emailed and sent vis U.S. Mail in December 2016. School counselors will receive notification of the selected students as well.
8. Once the applicant is selected, he or she has three business days to accept or decline.

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Information about Scoring:

Applicants are chosen based on four areas; **1. Application, 2. Personal Statement, 3. Interview, and 4. Recommendation.**

1. **Application**

   The application should be completed by the applicant in legible handwriting. All blanks should be complete. Attention will be given to spelling and grammar, overall neatness and quality of answers. Applications that are not submitted as described in the directions are subject to disqualification. Read directions carefully.

2. **Personal Statement**

   Personal essays may not exceed 2 typed pages, 1 inch margins, 12 point, Times New Roman font. Writing style should be formal, clear and concise. This statement should include the following:

   - A personal description;
   - A personal history including any significant events in your life;
   - An explanation as to why you are applying and why you would be a good fit for the Academy

3. **Interview**

   Applicant should dress professionally, be on time and greet interviewers. Applicants should be prepared to discuss the questions on the application, but may expect additional questions intended to understand applicant suitability for the program. It is recommended that the applicants practice interviewing to help appear comfortable, confident and relaxed.

4. **Recommendation**

   One Recommendation form must be sent directly to Rhonda Rhodes at rrhodes@hancockhrc.org or faxed to 228-463-8901, or may be delivered with the application in a sealed envelope. Recommendations must be received by the deadline and filled out completely to be considered.

Hancock Youth Leadership Academy
CHARACTER COURAGE SERVICE

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Please carefully read the application process instructions on page one before completing the application. Where indicated, questions should be answered in complete questions.

Applicant Name

Last_____First_____Middle Initial_____

Preferred Name_____ DOB:_____ Twitter name: _____

Mailing Address

Address_____City_____State_____ Zip Code_____

Home Phone(___)_____ Cell Phone (___)_____ Applicant Email_____

Parent/Guardian_____Cell Phone (_____)_____

Parent/Guardian email address_____

School Name _____School GPA:_____ACT Score:_____

School Contact Person/Counselor _____

School Phone (___)_____School Contact Email:_____

Are you a US citizen? _____Yes _____ No Shirt Size (Polo style shirt. Ladies fit ordered for girls):_____

1. Please describe extracurricular and community activities that you have been involved in including any leadership roles that you have held.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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2. Please discuss any accomplishments, awards, honors or recognitions for academic, school, religious or community activities you have achieved or received in high school.

_____

_____

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_____

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_____

3. What accomplishment are you most proud of and why?

_____

_____

_____

4. Please describe community service or volunteer work experience and briefly tell what was involved.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. Please describe your top three college choices. If not college, what are your plans after high school?

_____

_____

_____

_____

6. Who is someone you admire? Why?_____

_____

_____

_____

Please answer questions below in **ONE WORD** only.

7. How would your principal describe you? _____
8. How would your family describe you? _____
9. How would your friends describe you? _____
10. How would you describe yourself? _____
11. A personal characteristic that is a strength? _____
12. A personal characteristic that is a weakness? _____

Name of Teacher Completing Recommendation: _____

_____ _____
Applicant Signature Date