

# LEADERSHIP OKALOOSA

2025-2026

## *Summary*

Leadership Okaloosa is an esteemed leadership training and development program with a 30-year history of being a vital part of Okaloosa County's growth and development of its leaders. This 9-month experience is designed to enhance the participant's leadership skills and provide community awareness. Hosted from September to May, participants receive classroom training by certified instructors and are given opportunities to interact with various key community leaders throughout the process. Tours of key areas such as Destin, Crestview, Niceville, Valparaiso, Fort Walton Beach, Eglin Air Force Base, and Legislative Days in Tallahassee provide participants with a better understanding of the community. Additionally, each participant takes part in a group project to benefit the community while focusing on project management, time management and team building skills. Another important aspect of Leadership Okaloosa is the networking relationships forged that lead to long lasting personal and professional relationships. Leadership Okaloosa is hosted by the Northwest Florida State College, with the support of the Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce, Destin Chamber of Commerce, Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, and Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce.

## *Benefits to the Participant*

- Learn leadership training and development
- Network with others in the community
- Become equipped and motivated to assume leadership roles in the community
- Interact with community leaders
- Develop an awareness of the region and its needs
- Learn aspects of the Legislative process (Tallahassee Legislative Days)

## *Application Criteria*

Applications are accepted through August 20, 2025. The class size ranges from 35-45 participants. Leadership Okaloosa seeks participants who:

- Demonstrate leadership qualities in their job
- Participate in the community and desire to better our community through active leadership
- Commit necessary time and effort to complete the Leadership Okaloosa program
- Represent a cross section of the population
- Hold high standards of personal integrity
- Desire to network with others in the community
- Want to assume leadership roles in a variety of settings

### **Graduation Requirements**

Participants must attend a minimum of four of the training classes and community tours and participate in and complete the class project to be eligible for graduation. Make-up options are available.

### **Tuition Fee - \$1250**

The fee includes access to training and materials, coffee and lunch during training days, chamber breakfast during tours, hotel and bus transportation during Tallahassee Legislative days, and graduation celebration for participant and one guest to attend.

## **Orientation and Training Day September 18, 2026 NWFSC, Building 400, Training Room 302**

### ***Leadership Okaloosa 2025-2026 Tentative Schedule***

*September 18, 2025.....Orientation/Training Day (NWFSC)*  
*October 16, 2025.....Training Day (NWFSC)*  
*November 11, 2025..... Crestview tour*  
*December 2025.....TBA.....*  
*January 2026.....TBA.....*  
*February 4, 2026.....Community Day w/ United Way*  
*February 24-26, 2026.....Tallahassee Legislative Days*  
*March 6, 2026.....FWB Chamber Breakfast and City Tour*  
*April 16, 2026.....Training Day (NWFSC)*  
*May 8, 2026..... Destin Tour & Chamber Breakfast*  
*May 2026.....Graduation Celebration*

**Times – Training Days - 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.\***

**Tour Days – 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.\***

**Graduation Celebration – 5:00 p.m.**

#### **Attendance Policy**

- Attend at least 6 training/tour days
- Attendance at Graduation Celebration is encouraged!

*\*Times for training and tour days are subject to change*

# *Application for Leadership Okaloosa*

## LEADERSHIP OKALOOSA 2025-2026

### *Personal*

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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Initial)

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Driver's License # \_\_\_\_\_ State Issued \_\_\_\_\_

### *Employment*

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Current Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Position \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe your responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_

Has your employer authorized the required time commitment for participation in Leadership Okaloosa?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Direct Supervisor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Direct Supervisor's E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## *Organizations / Activities / Community Involvement*

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Professional and Community Organization Membership

What do you consider a major accomplishment associated with the professional and/or community organization(s) you have been affiliated with that you had a hand in accomplishing?

What would you consider one of your greatest contributions to the Okaloosa County community?

What skill and/or knowledge do you hope to gain from participating in Leadership Okaloosa?

What do you feel is the biggest issue facing Okaloosa County?

How did you hear about Leadership Okaloosa? \_\_\_\_\_

Which Okaloosa County Chamber are you a member of?

☐ Crestview    ☐ Destin    ☐ Fort Walton Beach    ☐ Niceville Valparaiso

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Application Deadline August 20, 2025**

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Contact: Brenda Robinson (850) 729-4956 or email:

[robinsonb@nwfsc.edu](mailto:robinsonb@nwfsc.edu)

Application may be submitted by Mail or E-mail.

Mail: Northwest Florida State College

Attn: Workforce Development

100 College Blvd. E., Niceville, FL 32578

E-mail: [leadership@nwfsc.edu](mailto:leadership@nwfsc.edu) • Website: [www.nwfsc.edu](http://www.nwfsc.edu)