

LEADERSHIP OKALOOSA

2026-2027

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, 2026. 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 - \$1275

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 17, 2026 NWFSC, Building 400, Training Room 302

Leadership Okaloosa 2026-2027 TENATIVE Schedule

September 17, 2026.....Orientation/Training Day (NWFSC)
October 8, 2026.....Training Day (NWFSC)
November 5, 2026.....Crestview Chamber Breakfast and city tour
December 2026.....Eglin AFB Tour TBA
January 13, 2027.....Niceville Chamber Breakfast and city tour
February 9, 2027.....Community Day w/ United Way (NWFSC)
March 5, 2027.....FWB Chamber Breakfast and city tour
March 31 - April 1.....Tallahassee Legislative Days
April 15, 2027.....Training Day (NWFSC)
May 14, 2027.....Destin Chamber Breakfast and city tour
May 2027.....Graduation Celebration

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

Tour Days – 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 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
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Personal

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

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

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 _____

Application Deadline August 20, 2026

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

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 • Website: www.nwfsc.edu