



Leadership Douglas County (LDC), a program of the Castle Rock Chamber Foundation, is committed to ensuring the continuity of knowledgeable and effective leadership in Douglas County. Established in 1999, **LDC** was created to ensure our community would continue to identify, educate, and motivate current and emerging leaders to improve Douglas County through personal and collective commitment.

For the participant, LDC will:

- Offer rigorous and relevant learning, with the opportunity to apply new knowledge and skills
- Broaden participants' knowledge of the community as a whole
- Challenge participants to examine their leadership style, values, and impact
- Increase the strength and effectiveness of our community leaders
- Equip participants to respond to the challenges of the community today and into the future
- Provide opportunities for direct contact with influential people, businesses, and service organizations

Session topics throughout the year include History, Open Space, Healthcare, Aging, Social Services, Civic Engagement, Education, Economic Development, Transportation, Law Enforcement, Fire and Emergency Services, Public Safety, Arts and Culture, Media, along with team-building elements and skills training throughout.

Class days are held at various locations throughout Douglas County. Some months will involve traveling throughout the day via your own transportation or carpooling with classmates.

Group Project – Each year, the class participants will complete an annual project to enhance the greater Douglas County community. We are currently seeking proposals from non-profit organizations (501c3) for the LDC class project. **Non-profit organizations who would like the incoming LDC class to consider a project may submit the attached RFP to the LDC Project Selection Committee.**

LDC conducts a competitive application process. The criteria for selection into the program will be based on an applicant's real world and professional background and review of applicant's education, recommendation, and involvement in community service activities.

Program Information

Acceptance of the LDC will require a two-year commitment and require full participation.

Year One kicks off in August, with the two-day Overnight Retreat. Following the retreat, the class meets on the **first Wednesday** of each month from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., October through June, culminating with graduation in June. **All classes must be attended in their entirety.**

In Year Two, participants attend monthly 1.5-hour Steering Committee Meetings, on the **third Wednesday** morning of each month, from August through May to plan the monthly sessions for the current year's class; each person also actively hosts at least one class day (first Wednesday) during the program year.

Important Dates

Overnight Retreat – August 28th & 29th, 2026. Attendance at the entire retreat is mandatory.

Class dates –

October 7	January 6	April 7
November 4	February 3	May 5
December 2	March 3	June 2

Program Requirements

Attendance – It is understood that any accepted applicant will attend 100% of all sessions in their entirety with no late arrivals or early departures from any session. If there is an emergency, please let the LDC Program Director know asap. LDC requires full participation, and participants may not miss more than one class day (or the equivalent), October through June, or they will be asked by the Steering Committee to excuse themselves from the program.

Letter of Recommendation – Please note that you must submit a letter of recommendation, along with your resume and completed application by the stated deadline.

Notification of Acceptance into the Program – Application deadline is June 15th, 2026. Notification of acceptance will be made by July 15th, 2026. Tuition will be paid in full by August 15th, 2026.

Tuition for the program is \$1,800 and includes the two-day overnight retreat, all monthly programs, lunch, materials, and graduation recognition. Accepted participants will be invoiced upon acceptance and tuition must be paid by August 15th, 2026. Tuition covers only a portion of program expenses and additional funding from generous local Sponsors is used to supplement the program.