

Signature Program or LOYAL Program?

Leadership Oklahoma City currently offers two programs for adults. Which is right for you?

| | LOYAL | Signature Program |
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| <i>General description</i> | LOYAL is a short-format skills-based program intended for young adults just beginning their community service careers. | The Signature Program is a community-information program designed for experienced community volunteers to broaden their knowledge of community issues. |
| <i>Curriculum</i> | A skills-based program, focusing on skills needed to be an effective community leader | A community information program, focusing on issues that affect central Oklahoma |
| <i>Current Program Topics</i> | Networking, risk-taking, business etiquette, fund raising, special event management, presentation skills, meeting management, and board success. | Public safety, health, human services, government and media, education, quality of life, and economic development |
| <i>Age range</i> | Must be at least 23 and not more than 35 on the date of the Opening Retreat for the class year in which you apply. The median age in last year's LOYAL class was 26. | Must be at least 21 The median age in this year's Signature class is 44. |
| <i>Class size</i> | 61 in last year's class | 49 in this year's class |
| <i>Tuition (current)</i> | \$400 | \$2000 |
| <i>Class Project</i> | Mandatory | Optional |
| <i>Time Required</i> | Most classes are from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. once or twice a month, October through April. Two all-day classes on a weekend day. Opening Retreat is mandatory. | Classes are from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the 2 nd Thursday, October through May and a 2-day mandatory Opening Retreat in September (Sept. 8-9, 2011) |
| <i>Absentee Policy</i> | Opening Retreat is mandatory. No more than two other classes may be missed. | Opening Retreat is mandatory. No more than two other classes may be missed. |
| <i>Application period</i> | Applications for the LOYAL class are available in July and due August 15, 2011. | Applications for the Signature Program are available January through March and due the first Friday in April. |

Frequently Asked Questions

If I participate in one program, can I apply for the other program later?

Logically one could apply for the Signature Program after LOYAL, but not vice versa. Signature Program participants are expected to have the skills LOYAL teaches. We have already had LOYAL graduates apply for and be accepted to the Signature Program.

If I'm turned down for one program, can I apply for the other?

Yes. We may sometimes even encourage an applicant to apply for the other program if he or she seems better suited for that one.

Am I too old or too young?

Leadership Oklahoma City does not have an upper age limit. We do ask that applicants be at least 21. Most LOYAL applicants must be between 23 and 35. Signature Program applicants (and class members) have ranged from early twenties to seventies, but those in their twenties are often up against more experienced community leaders and are somewhat less likely to be admitted to the Signature Program without a substantial leadership background.

How can I convince my employer one of these programs is worth the time away from work?

You'll know more about the community, more about how to work with others, and more people, many more people. Tell your employer that over 200 local businesses have had participants. Many organizations have repeated participation, with an applicant every year. Some organizations so value the Leadership Oklahoma City experience that they hold internal mini-selections of their own to narrow the number of candidates from their company in order to field the strongest possible applicant. Many companies pay all or part of the tuition for their employees, and it is very unusual for class members not to be granted no-penalty time off for the program. Program participants receive many hours of locally-based training at a fraction of the cost of most professional seminars. In addition to the knowledge they gain, participants also meet dozens of community contacts and leaders who become part of their personal and business networks. The Leadership Oklahoma City office can refer your employer to an industry leader who encourages class participation among his or her employees.

What happens after the program is completed?

Leadership Oklahoma City has an active alumni program. Graduates can continue to expand their community information-gathering and their network. For a small annual alumni association membership fee, graduates are invited to sessions on critical community issues, political forums, new challenges or emerging opportunities and social events. The Alumni Association usually holds an event about once a month, so there are many chances for continuing education.

Other questions?

Contact Beth Shortt, Executive Director, at 463-3331 or info@lokc.org.