



About Leadership Somerset

LEADERSHIP
Somerset

*Creating an active network of informed, concerned leaders
committed to improving the quality of life in our communities*

Applications Accepted Annually
in the Fall!

www.leadershipsomerset.org

What is Leadership Somerset and why should I participate?

Leadership Somerset is a year-long adult community leadership program. Every sector of the Somerset County community (government, education, business, not-for-profit, etc.) needs leaders - people who are informed, engaged, connected, and who care about keeping Somerset County a great place to live and work.

Leadership Somerset creates this active network of informed, concerned citizens who guide the future of this community. Program fellows enhance their leadership skills while broadening their knowledge of community issues within Somerset County.

This is the program for you if you are looking for

- *a knowledge of formal and informal decision-making channels in Somerset County;*
- *a broader view of critical community issues;*
- *an introduction to key community leaders and an opportunity to network; and*
- *an opportunity to practice and refine critical leadership skills and competencies.*



Who can apply to Leadership Somerset?

Applications are accepted from adults who live or work in Somerset County, NJ. We are looking for energetic people who reflect a cross-section of ages, cultures, races, interests, viewpoints, professions, and experiences. Applicants should have a genuine interest in Somerset County, high standards of personal quality and integrity, and a desire to become more involved.

A class of up to 30 diverse adults is competitively selected each fall from the pool of applicants.



www.facebook.com/leadershipsomerset



[@LeadershipSom](https://twitter.com/LeadershipSom)



Group: Leadership
Somerset

When does Leadership Somerset take place and what will I learn?

This is a yearlong program that begins in January and is held one day a month. Each monthly session occurs on a weekday, typically between 8:15 AM and 4:30 PM. The calendar of session dates is provided with the application. Most sessions are held in Somerville.

Each session is dedicated to a specific topic. The session day is filled with speakers, discussion, activities, and field trips that explain and reinforce the topic. Program fellows are encouraged to listen to the pros and cons and details of each topic, so they can develop their own ideas and opinions. Session topics include leadership, government, economy & workforce, justice & public safety, human services & housing, arts & culture, history, community health, environment & energy, lifelong learning, and diversity.

Sessions also include learning about leadership capacities. Throughout the year, program fellows learn how expanding their capacities of *authenticity, purpose, advocacy, resilience, community building, reason, and gratitude* helps them become more effective leaders. The leadership skills curriculum we use is suitable for persons from any background and can be applied to any part of life – personal, work, and community.

In addition to some small group projects, each class is required to complete one major project that benefits the community. Working together outside of class time, program fellows identify the project, develop strategies, and implement plans to ensure the completion of the project by graduation. Program fellows experience community trusteeship firsthand and learn teamwork skills and consensus-building techniques that can be used for work, home, and volunteer experiences.



Attend an Open House to Learn More

Each fall during recruiting season we hold open house events where prospective applicants can talk with alumni and program staff to learn more about what makes our program special. Check www.leadershipsomerset.org in early fall for dates and times.

Who Sponsors Leadership Somerset and is there a fee to participate?



Created in 2000 by the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders, in partnership with the Somerset County Business Partnership, Raritan Valley Community College, and the United Way of Northern New Jersey, Somerset County, the Leadership Somerset program is still sponsored by Somerset County. With nearly 400 alumni over sixteen class years, the Freeholders continue to provide the operation and support for this program.

Leadership Somerset charges a nominal program fee that covers participation in all sessions, materials, and meals. Our program fee is low in comparison to similar community leadership programs because the majority of the program costs are underwritten by the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Limited financial assistance based on need is typically available. Leadership Somerset does not have an application or processing fee. Information about the current fee is available on our website.

Are there any other expectations?

We expect our program fellows to be able to commit the time required to make this a successful experience for all involved. Because of this, your employer must approve your participation in this program.

Attendance at the first session in January is mandatory to continue in the program. In order to graduate, program fellows may miss no more than 1.5 sessions and must participate in a class project and smaller projects during the year.

All program fellows must have internet access and an email address. Program information (agendas, pre-work, etc.) is all sent electronically. In addition, the majority of activity concerning the planning and implementation of the class project(s) is also done by email or by other electronic means (private discussion forums, video conferencing, etc.).

And finally, in addition to your desire to learn more about Somerset County and meet great leaders, we expect that you will want to stretch your comfort zone while also having fun and making new friends along the way.



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