

YOUTH LEADERSHIP ROWAN APPLICATION 2026- 2027

DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 2026 @ 5:00 PM

Dear Applicant:

Congratulations on your decision to apply for Youth Leadership Rowan Class of 2026-27! Before beginning the application, please read the following information carefully.

Eligibility – Applicants must:

- Be a rising Junior in good academic standing.
- Demonstrate leadership potential in their school and/or community.
- Have an interest in furthering their knowledge about our region and community leadership.
- Submit one letter of reference.
- Receive approval by high school principal and/or guidance counselor.
- Be willing to commit to 100% participation.

Application Requirements:

To be considered, candidates must complete this application in its entirety. A completed application includes this document and a letter of reference. Your school must review and submit your application to youthlead@rowanchamber.com no later than **April 1, 2026**. The reference letter must be emailed from the referencing person, not the student. Your reference may be a teacher, guidance counselor, principal, employer, etc. It cannot be a family member.

Student Commitments:

- RSS will provide transportation to and from sessions.
- Attend all scheduled sessions.
- Attend orientation for participants with a parent/guardian in August 2026.
- Monthly sessions September-March, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (there will be no meeting in December due to exams)
- Graduation will be held in March 2027.
- Attendance at all sessions is expected. Two unexcused absences will result in removal from the program. Being accepted for YLR is similar to signing a contract, both sides have obligations. You will agree to contribute your presence, ideas, and energy, and we agree to challenge you and expose you to new ideas.
- Please consider your commitments prior to submitting an application. College classes and other extra-curricular activities may impact your ability to attend YLR session.
- **Students must make appropriate arrangements with teachers for any missed work.**
- Students selected to participate agree to submit complete session evaluations in a timely manner.

Attendance Policy:

- Students should be excused from class for all days listed on the Program Calendar.

- Attendance at YLR Program days is **mandatory**. If a student has two unexcused absences, he or she may be removed from the program.
- RSS will provide transportation to and from YLR Program days.
- During the day, students will be provided with a lunch and snacks.
- All planned or unplanned absences from YLR MUST be reported to the YLR Director.
- The graduation ceremony is held during the evening in March. Parents are invited to attend the graduation event. Location TBA.

2026:

Opening Retreat - September 9

History Day - October 14

Human Needs Day - November 11

December - No class

2027:

Government Day - January 13

Communications Day - February 10

Planning Day & Graduation - March 3

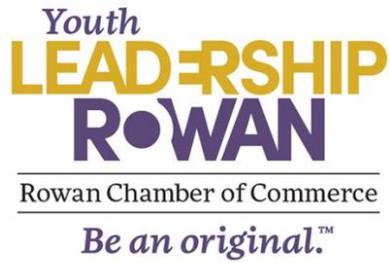
You can reach me, Alisha Byrd-Clark, Program Coordinator at youthlead@rowanchamber.com.

Best of luck with your application!

Sincerely,

Alisha Byrd-Clark

Youth Leadership Rowan Program
Coordinator



Scan the QR code to complete your application digitally.



www.surveymonkey.com/r/ylrclass3

Youth Leadership Rowan is open to all rising Juniors who attend a public high school in Rowan County. The deadline for applications is April 1, 2026. To be considered, candidates must complete this application in its entirety. A completed application includes this document and one letter of reference. Please email completed applications to youthlead@rowanchamber.com. You can also complete your application online by scanning the QR code above.

I. Basic Information

Name: _____

Age: _____ Current Grade: _____ School: _____

Home Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Student Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

How did you find out about Youth Leadership Rowan?

II. Involvement

Please use the space below to list any activities, involvement, community service, honors and awards from your school, church, employer or other organization. Make note of any leadership positions held. Include information from your middle/high school years only. You may attach an additional page or resume if necessary.

IV. Short Answer- you may attach an additional page if necessary.

- Why are you interested in the Youth Leadership Rowan Program?

- Consider one of your school or volunteer activities. Explain how you demonstrate leadership by participating in this activity:

- Tell Us About Yourself! Share something unique, unusual, or funny about yourself:

V. Signatures

Applicant

I have read and understand the commitment required of participating in the Youth Leadership Rowan, a program of the Rowan County Chamber of Commerce. I understand that, if selected, I can make this commitment for the upcoming school year.

Signature of applicant: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian

I give permission for _____ to participate in Youth Leadership Rowan a program of the Rowan County Chamber of Commerce. I will support their attendance and participation in all Youth Leadership Rowan activities and projects.

Signature of parent/guardian: _____ Date: _____

Email your completed application to:
youthlead@rowanchamber.com

****Reference letter(s) must be emailed from the referencing person, not the student****

*All applications will remain confidential.
Youth Leadership Rowan does not discriminate based on sex, race, religion, national origin, or disabilities.*

For further information contact:
Rowan Chamber of Commerce
204 East Innes Street, Suite 110
Salisbury, NC 28144
Phone: 704-633-4221