

LEADERSHIP LAGUNA MADRE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

In an effort to clarify and simplify the necessary information to fulfill your requirements for a successful Leadership year, our Steering Committee has prepared this brief informational handout for your reference. We have also included some information that you may find helpful.

ATTENDANCE:

Your presence during Leadership Retreat is crucial. Anyone absent for the first or second day of Retreat is automatically dropped from the Class. Your presence during each Class Day is equally important. However, we understand that sometimes an emergency may occur and cause you to miss a day or be tardy for a class. Only one absence is permitted during the class year. In the event of an emergency absence, you must contact your mentor as soon as possible. Please contact your mentor regarding any known absence prior to class day. Only one tardy is allowed during the class year. A tardy of 30 minutes or less will result in 5 additional community service hours. Any time over 30 minutes will result in a full day absence.

In the event of a second day absence you have the right to present your case to the Appeals Committee (see bylaws for procedure). Depending on the outcome of the Appeals Committee, you may be given the opportunity to continue the class year and receive your diploma if: 1) you complete an additional 8 hours of community service no later than July 1ST of the current year, and; 2) you attend the missed class or its equivalent during the next class year. Once the criteria is met and approved by the Steering Committee, you will receive your diploma noting the class year in which you were a member. This procedure will only be allowed one time; any additional absence will result in automatic dismissal from the program.

CONDUCT:

Any class member may be expelled by two-thirds vote of the Steering Committee, at a regularly scheduled meeting, for conduct unbecoming a class member or prejudicial to the aims or reputé of the Chamber and or Leadership Laguna Madre, after notice and opportunity for a hearing are afforded the class member.

CLASS UNIFORM SHIRT:

Since we would like to be distinguished as a Leadership group wherever we go, Laguna Madre Leadership has provided each class member with a Leadership shirt, which distinguishes each class from other years. Additional embroidery or silk screening is not permitted, and it is required you wear your class shirt during each Class Day. In the event you fail to wear your shirt, 5 additional community service hours will be required.

MENTORSHIP:

Our goal is to introduce you into the Leadership program as smoothly as possible. We understand it is at times intimidating and sometimes even confusing. In fact, most students have many questions, but don't know who to ask. As a class participant, you will be assigned a mentor who is a member of the Steering Committee. Your mentor will contact you shortly before the Retreat and will assist you with any questions or concerns you may have. Your mentor will make himself/herself available to you during the year.

CLASS PROJECT:

Each class is expected to "brainstorm" and produce its own unique Class Project designed to benefit a charitable or civic organization through a financial contribution or carry out a service of benefit to the community. The tuition paid by class members each year does not cover the expenses of the program. To help ensure the continuance of the Leadership Program, each year's class must donate \$3,000 or 30% of their class project net income, whichever is larger, to the Leadership Laguna Madre program. Part of being a leader is working together towards a common goal and producing uncommon results. Make sure you notify all Alumni and ask for their participation. We hope to see your class work together toward a very successful project. The following are examples of what other classes have done.....

Class I:	Work-hours at a Habitat for Humanity construction site, and an auction held at their graduation to benefit the LLM Scholarship Fund.
Class II:	Causeway Walk/Run Sponsors, which funded "Dentists Who Care."
Class III:	Sold orchids to benefit Sea Turtle, Inc. & PI Library and developed a public awareness program to encourage legible house numbers in case of emergency.
Class IV:	Progressive Dinner & Auction, which funded The Make-a-Wish Foundation.
Class V:	Celebrity bartending, pancake breakfast, and sale of donated fruit
Class VI:	Jazz Festival at Mango's Restaurant
Class VII:	Flamingo Project and Mayor's Roast
Class VIII:	Basketball Shoot-Out
Class IX:	Sold raffle tickets for 2-round trip Southwest Airlines tickets
Class X:	Wine Tasting Event at Sea Ranch Restaurant
Class XI:	Dancing with the Stars Event at Schlitterbahn Beach Waterpark
Class XII:	Gourmet dinner and wine tasting at Sea Ranch Restaurant
Class XIV:	Due to Hurricane Dolly there was no Leadership Class this year

Your plan for the Class Project needs to be submitted in writing to the Steering Committee no later than their December 2009 meeting. You must have one or two Class representatives present your plan before the Steering Committee. All printed materials must include the wording "All proceeds benefit Leadership Laguna Madre, (charity chosen by class) and other charities". If your project raises funds, all funds must be submitted to the South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce for deposit in the Leadership Laguna Madre checking account within two (2) days of each fundraising event. All contributions and expenses for the Class will be paid from the Leadership Laguna Madre checking account.

VIRTUAL PHOTO ALBUM:

Each class is required to put a virtual photo album together using the photographs taken during each class event. The layout of the virtual photo album is the choice of the class and must be completed, and shown, at graduation. Graduation pictures will be added following the event. All CD's will be maintained at the South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce and should be picked up when the class begins the virtual photo album project. Following graduation, the virtual photo album will be housed in the South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce office.

MEDIA PERSON:

Each class is required to select a class member to be in charge of keeping the class members and their projects in the news. Leadership Laguna Madre provides a camera and film for this purpose. The camera and film will be given to the media person at each class day by the Class Day Coordinator and should be returned at the end of the class day. All film will be processed by Chamber staff and placed on a CD. Press releases should be given to the Chamber office on a monthly basis to be included in the Chamber newsletter. Once press releases are approved by the Chamber, the release should be sent to local newspapers by the class designated Media Person.

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Involvement is a key component of the Leadership experience. To enhance knowledge of issues and the use of leadership skills, each class member is required to complete 15 hours of community service with at least three (3) different organizations. A form is provided in the Leadership Manual that must be completed and turned into the Chamber office on or before April 1. Mail or deliver your form/s to South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce, 600 Padre Blvd., South Padre Island, Texas 78597. The 15 hours must entail participation in activities that occurred following the retreat dates, but prior to April 1.

In addition to the 15 hours of community service, each class member will also be required to attend:

- One (1) School Board meeting (Los Fresnos, Port Isabel or South Texas ISD in Mercedes),
- Two (2) Government meetings in two (2) different Laguna Madre communities (Bayview, Laguna Vista, Los Fresnos, Port Isabel, South Padre Island or Cameron County Commissioners). Government meeting is defined as the Town's or County's governing body.

The following is a partial list of possible community service organizations. Examples of unqualified community service hours are:

- Job-related hours
- Attendance at Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting and mixers
- Hours spent working on Leadership

If you have questions about receiving credit at an organization not listed, please contact your mentor.

Los Fresnos Chamber of Commerce Events
Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce Events
South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce Events
Los Fresnos Consolidated Independent School District
Point Isabel Independent School District
South Texas ISD School District
Beach Clean-Up
Boys' & Girls' Club – Los Fresnos
Boys' & Girls' Club – Port Isabel
Habitat for Humanity
Laguna Madre Humane Society
Make-A-Wish Foundation
Red Cross
UTPA Coastal Studies Lab
SandCastle Days
South Padre Island Bike Fest

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