



PURPOSE - It is the intent of the Future Leaders of Jones County program (FLJC) to offer leadership training, pertinent historical and cultural education, and a general instruction of good citizenship consistent with what new and emerging community leaders should know to further the development and progress of Jones County and the surrounding area. This program is offered to a select group of high school (11th grade) students who meet certain academic requirements who live and attend school in Jones County.

MISSION STATEMENT – The mission of the FLJC program is to provide Jones County with qualified, informed young leaders for the economic and cultural growth of our area through an annual program of intensive leadership development and community awareness.

ELIGIBILITY - The FLJC program is open to any individual who lives and attends school in Jones County, is tested at an 11th grade level, regardless of race, creed, nation's origin, sex, socio-economic standing or community status. However, the individuals selected to participate in the program each year will reflect a general cross-section of the population of Jones County, whenever possible, taking into consideration racial, demographics and high school affiliation and other diversities existent within Jones County. Depending upon the number of applicants each year, the number of people selected to participate can range between 25 and 30.

ATTENDANCE* - Those persons selected as participants of FLJC are expected to commit to and attend all sessions. A strong commitment to the program is necessary if individuals are to fully benefit from the experience of FLJC. It is extremely important for all selected participants, schools, counselors, principals and parents to understand the time and attendance commitment needed for the program. These policies are in place to protect the integrity of the program.

PROJECTS - Each participant will serve on an FLJC project team. No one may select a particular group, but the group once formed, may select specific project topics. Projects should be of general benefit to the citizens of Jones County as a whole. Groups will be encouraged to seek out problems of limited scope with the potential for a quantifiable and implemented solution. The purpose of FLJC is not to be merely a passive educational program, but rather a program which requires active utilization of leadership skills and whose class members while learning, can realize the satisfaction of contributing to a better community. Failure to contribute a proportionate share of the project work causes a team member to lose graduation eligibility. A written as well as, oral project presentation is required by all participants in order to graduate.

***PARTICIPANTS MUST ADHERE TO MANDATORY ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICIES**

- One absence (one session) will be excused when Staff coordinator is notified in writing **prior** to the session. Commitment of time and attendance is critical for successful completion of the program.
- Absences must be approved by Staff Coordinator prior to any absence.
- EDA Staff Coordinator must be notified immediately of any emergency or absence.
- A written statement to the Staff Coordinator is required when any part of a session is missed. This written statement must be provided prior to each session. Or in case of an emergency as soon as possible following the session. This requirement does not negate the need to notify EDA Staff immediately of any emergency or absence.
- Missing any part of a session is the same as missing the whole session.
- Missing more than one session could remove the participant from the program and not allowing the participant to graduate.





APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. Applications for Future Leaders of Jones County may be requested by high school (11th grade) students who live and attend school in Jones County.
2. A selection committee will thoroughly review the information provided in the application and up to 50 delegates are selected by the committee to be interviewed by a group of out-of-town judges. Efforts are made to balance participants according to school, personal interest, race and gender.
3. It is necessary that the applicant has been or is actively involved in volunteer/community activities, (Some examples might include; volunteering at American Red Cross, participating in an organization's food drive, participating in a Laurel Little Theater production, participating in church activities, visiting the elderly in rest homes, etc.).
4. Delegates will be selected by a group of out-of-town judges following the applicant interviews. The final selection will be made by the judges according to the information provided in the applications, from references and from the interviews.
5. Social media will be a consideration of the applicant. Inappropriate posts or photos could be a determining factor for selection.
6. Applications will be accepted beginning in October. Application deadlines will be provided to the schools and the local media.
7. There is no charge to the selected participants for the Future Leaders program. The Association for Excellence in Education and the Community Development Foundation of Jones County sponsor the Future Leaders of Jones County program. Additional funding or assistance may also be provided by interested community businesses. Members of the staff for the Economic Development Authority is the program coordinator.
8. Applications must be **COMPLETED** by applicants using appropriate writing skills. Forms should be **typed or clearly printed** and should include as much information as possible. It will be necessary for additional paper to be used for school recommendations and the 200-word essay. A form is attached for applicants' volunteer community, religious or social activities.
9. Applicants must have a minimum of a **2.25 GPA**.
10. Applicants will not be eligible for the program if they have received an Out-of-School Suspension during their 10th or 11th grade years.
11. All applicants are subject to confidential evaluation.
12. The individual schools will be notified of the selection of applicants.
13. Selected applicants are required to attend the Future Leaders
14. Selected participants are required to attend the opening retreat in order to participate in the Future Leaders program.
15. Two alternate participants will be selected to replace any participant that does fails to respond to notices in a timely manner prior to the opening orientation and retreat.





INSTRUCTIONS: Applications **MUST** be typed or clearly printed in ink. **Must include a recent photo** suitable for use in newspaper articles or other Future Leaders publications. **Any application not completely filled out and/or does not include a photograph may be disqualified.**

Photos will not be returned. Mail or deliver application to the Economic Development Authority of Jones County office 153 Base Drive, P.O. Box 527, Laurel, MS 39441 or return application to your school office prior to deadline. School office will have date for deadline.

Additional paper may be used if necessary.

Name:

First Middle Last

Name you wish to be called: _____

Email: _____

Parent or Guardian:

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

Home Address:

_____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth (City/State): _____

Length of residence in Jones County: _____

High School attending: _____

REFERENCES

Name two adults who live in Jones County (not relatives or school representatives) as character references that selection committee may contact if necessary.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

FUTURE LEADERS OF JONES COUNTY ESSAY

On a separate sheet of paper and to be included with this application, write a 200-word essay, giving reasons, you feel you could benefit from being a participant of Future Leaders of Jones County and what you could lend to the program as a participant.

SCHOOL RECOMMENDATION

On a separate sheet of paper and to be included with this application, have a member of your school's faculty (no relatives) provide information on your character, reasons they feel you could benefit from being a participant and what you could lend to the program as a participant. No more than three school recommendations will be accepted.

VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Include with this application a Volunteer/Community Activities form. List any volunteer community, religious or social activities that you have participated in during the past two years. Also include any offices held in those activities. This form must be signed by an appropriate person within the organization. Multiple forms may be used if necessary.





GENERAL INFORMATION

List any special honors or awards that you have received in the past two years. _____

List any work experience (with dates) for the past two years and how you benefitted from the situation. _____

What one word describes you and why? _____

What do you feel to be the most significant challenges and the most important opportunities in Jones County? (Limit three each topic) _____

EXTRACURRICULAR AND SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

List any school organizations or extracurricular activities (include sports, band, equestrian or livestock competition, committees, etc.) that you have participated in during the past two years.





PRINCIPAL COMMITMENT

This applicant has the full approval of this school and the applicant has our full support which includes the time required to participate in the program activities. I feel this student will be a benefit to the program as well as an appropriate representative of our school.

School: _____ Date: _____

Principal's Signature: _____ GPA: _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN COMMITMENT

This applicant has my full approval and the applicant has my support and permission which includes the time required to participate in the program. I understand that applicants will be selected by the information provided in this application, interview scores and from references provided. I am aware that all applicants cannot be selected for the program and I will agree with the decisions made by the selection committee and judges.

Parent or Guardian Signature:

_____ Date: _____

APPLICANT COMMITMENT

Future Leaders of Jones County is a planned learning experience and requires attendance at its meetings which include an orientation, the opening retreat, and monthly one-day sessions and graduation program. **Active participation in a team project is required.**

APPLICANT PLEDGE

I wish to participate in Future Leaders of Jones County. I will actively participate in the program to the best of my ability.

I have the full support of my principal and my parent/guardian for the time required to participate.

I will be able to attend the Future Leaders opening retreat, all monthly sessions and graduation **and I understand that any unexcused absences may result in my being dropped from the program.**

Applicant Signature:

_____ Date: _____

Future Leaders of Jones County is a program developed by Team 4 of the 1990 Leadership Jones County Class.

The purpose of the program is to teach leadership skills to a selected group of high school (11th grade) students who meet certain academic requirements, live and attend school in Jones County and are selected by a group of out-of-town judges.

Future Leaders stresses community volunteerism and having pride for Jones County. It encourages future involvement in community activities.





APPLICANT VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Please list any/all volunteer community, religious or social activities you have been a participant in during the last two years. Also, include any offices held in those activities. Form must be signed by an appropriate person within the organization. Multiple forms may be used if necessary.

Name of Organization: _____

Position/Office Held: _____

Approximate Date: _____

Organization Signature: _____ Date: _____

Organization Comments: _____

(Additional copies of this form may be made if necessary)

