



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 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 creed, nation's origin, sex, race, 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, high school affiliation and other diversities existent within Jones County. Depending upon the number of applicants each year, the number of students selected to participate can range between 25 and 30.

ATTENDANCE* - Those students selected as participants of FLJC are expected to commit to and attend the retreat and 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 the Program Director 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 the Program Director prior to any absence.
- The Program Director must be notified immediately of any emergency or absence or if the participant becomes ill during a session.
- A written statement to the Program Director 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. ***

*Consideration will be given for an absence due to Covid-19 quarantine when written notice is given to Program Coordinator. Virtual options will be made available for participants when possible.

COVID-19 Policy and Release MUST be signed by Parent and Participant





APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. Applications for Future Leaders of Jones County (FLJC) 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. 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 organizations/functions, (Some examples might include; volunteering at American Red Cross, animal shelters, participating in an organization's food/supply 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 with the selection of applicants. Inappropriate posts or photos could be a determining factor for selection.
6. Applications will be accepted 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 (FLJC) program. CSpire and the Community Development Foundation of Jones County sponsor the (FLJC) program. Additional funding or assistance may also be provided by interested community businesses. The Program Director of FLJC is staff from the Economic Development Authority of Jones County.
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 pages 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 FLJC program if they have received an Out-of-School Suspension during their 10th or 11th grade school years.
11. All applicants are subject to confidential evaluation.
12. The individual schools will be notified of the selection of applicants.
13. Selected participants are required to attend the opening retreat in order to participate in the FLJC program. No exceptions.
14. Two alternate participants will be selected to replace any participant that fails to respond to notices in a timely manner prior to the opening orientation and retreat or declines to participate for any reason.

IMPORTANT DATES!!

NOVEMBER 11 – Applications due @ EDA office
NOVEMBER 16 – 19 – Participant Interviews at each school. Dates/times will be announced.
DECEMBER 11 – Retreat – REQUIRED ATTENDANCE
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
JANUARY 13 – Monthly Session
FEBRUARY 10 – Monthly Session
MARCH 10 – Monthly Session
APRIL 14 – Monthly Session
MAY 5 – Graduation (Tentative Date)
Most monthly sessions will be 8:30 until 3:00. Notices will be emailed to all Participants and Counselors.





INSTRUCTIONS: Applications **MUST** be typed or clearly printed in ink. **Must include a recent photo** suitable for use in newspaper articles or other FLJC 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 Program Director, Sandy Holifield, Economic Development Authority of Jones County, 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 pages may be included. **REMEMBER - MUST be typed or clearly printed** in ink.

Name: _____
First Middle Last

Name you wish to be called: _____

Email: _____
MONTHLY NOTICES AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION WILL BE SENT. PRINT CLEARLY!!!

Phone #: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone #: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth (City/State): _____

Length of residence in Jones County: _____

High School attending: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

Home Phone #: _____

REFERENCES

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

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

FUTURE LEADERS OF JONES COUNTY ESSAY

On a separate page 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 page and to be included with this application, have no more than three members 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.

VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Include with this application a Volunteer/Community Activities form. List any community, religious or non-profit agency volunteer activities that you have participated in during the past two years. Also include any offices held in those organizations/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. Use additional pages if needed. _____

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

What one word describes you and why? Use additional pages if needed. _____

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

During the Covid-19 Global Pandemic what has affected you most and how did you/are you overcoming the situation? Use additional pages if needed. _____

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. Use additional pages if needed.





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 out-of-town judges.

Parent or Guardian Signature:

_____ Date: _____

***Participant AND Parent/Guardian signatures are required on the Covid-19 Policy and Release attached.**

APPLICANT COMMITMENT

Future Leaders of Jones County is a planned learning experience and requires attendance at its opening retreat, monthly 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 all of the program sessions and activities to the best of my ability.

I have the full support of my principal, teachers 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. If I cannot attend the opening retreat, I will forfeit my position in 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 diverse group of high school, 11th grade students who meet certain academic and civic requirements. Students must live and attend school in Jones County and are selected by a group of out-of-town judges.

The Future Leaders of Jones County program stresses community volunteerism and having pride for Jones County. It encourages current and future involvement in community activities. The FLJC program is funded by CSpire, the Association for Excellence in Education and the Community Development Foundation of Jones County. It is under the direction of the staff of the Economic Development of Jones County.

IMPORTANT DATES!!
NOVEMBER 11 – Applications due @ EDA office
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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: _____

Activity performed: _____

Organization Representative and Title: _____

Organization Signature: _____ Date: _____

Organization Comments: _____

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





COVID-19 Policy - MUST BE SIGNED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN AND STUDENT

Approved by Leadership Committee October 13, 2020

The purpose of this document is to provide participants in the **Future Leaders of Jones County** program with information prior to in-person class participation. **The health and safety of our participants is our top priority.** If at any time a situation arises that is not covered by this plan or that concerns you, please contact FLJC Director Sandy Holifield. This document will be updated as needed.

When possible FLJC will make reasonable accommodations for a virtual experience for those who are unable to participate in person when prior notice is given.

Preparing to Attend an In-Person FLJC Session:

Please be considerate of your FLJC classmates and their family members. Participants must self-assess for fever or symptoms of sickness prior to attending an FLJC session. If you are experiencing any symptoms of illness - not only COVID-19 symptoms - **DO NOT** come to an FLJC session. If you have a fever 100 F or greater or have any symptoms of illness, please don't come to the session. If you have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 you may not come to an FLJC session for 14 days after such contact, and then only if you are not showing any symptoms and notify Program Director Sandy Holifield immediately.

If any participant shows symptoms of illness during a session, they will be excused. Participants are strongly encouraged to notify Program Director Sandy Holifield immediately, if they are not feeling well and leave for the remainder of the day.





Upon arrival to the session, participants will:

- Complete a 4-question survey. These questions relate to any symptoms you are experiencing, positive COVID 19 test results and contact with anyone with a positive test result. The questions are included in this document for your reference.
- Be provided a face mask (if they don't bring their own) that must be worn in a proper manner (covering both nose and mouth) when you are unable to maintain 6 feet of distance from your classmates.
- Use hand sanitizer provided by FLJC. You are also encouraged to bring your own and use it frequently throughout the day or after touching a surface or objects touched by others.

While in Session:

Social distancing should be maintained while in all sessions. In accordance with Mississippi guidelines (at the time of this document), the total number of occupants in a space at any given time is limited to no more than 75% of the maximum occupancy for a particular area as set by the certificate of occupancy.

Avoid touching surfaces touched by others and avoid anyone who appears to be sick, or who is coughing or sneezing. Minimize sharing materials to the extent possible.

Do not bring food to share. You will be notified as part of the FLJC pre-session notifications if lunch will be provided or how food will be served. Please bring your own coffee mug and/or refillable water bottle to class.

Participants should remain aware of distancing when entering and exiting restrooms. Wash hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds before leaving the restroom.

Session Guests and Speakers:

Session Guests and Speakers will be required to follow the guidelines above. When able to be 6 feet or more from participants, they may remove their face mask to facilitate, make their presentations and/or take questions.

Notification:

If you have come in contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, immediately inform FLJC Director Sandy Holifield. You may not return to class for 14 days after your last contact with the individual, and then only if you are not showing any symptoms.

If you are diagnosed with COVID-19 and have attended a monthly session, immediately inform FLJC Director Sandy Holifield.

Class members will be notified should a member of the class be diagnosed with COVID-19 (though specific names will not be released).

If you are affected by a quarantine at your school notify FLJC Director Sandy Holifield immediately.

Questions/Concerns:

If you have any concerns or feedback about this policy, contact FLJC Director Sandy Holifield 601.433.7340, 601.649.3030 or sandyh@edajones.com . FLJC will continue to review and revise this plan as necessary.





FLJC COVID-19 Questionnaire

Received By: _____ Temperature: _____

Must be completed upon immediately upon arrival to FLJC Session

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Have you had COVID-19 symptoms in the past 14 days, including but not limited to cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell?

No ____ Yes ____

2. Have you had a positive COVID-19 test in the past 14 days?

No ____ Yes ____

3. Have you had close contact with a person who is considered a confirmed or suspected positive COVID-19 case in the past 14 days?

No ____ Yes ____

4. Have you visited or come into contact with someone from outside of the United States in the past 14 days?

No ____ Yes ____

Signature _____

If you answered YES to any of these questions, we ask that you notify FLJC Director, Sandy Holifield immediately and not attend this FLJC session in person until 14 days following that potential exposure.





RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT RELATING TO CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19

COVID-19 (a/k/a Coronavirus) has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization and is reported to be extremely contagious. Although the state of medical knowledge regarding COVID-19 is evolving, this virus is believed to spread from person-to-person contact and/or by contact with contaminated surfaces and objects, and even possibly in the air when in close proximity. Currently, the exact methods of spread and contraction are unknown and there is no known treatment, cure, or vaccine for COVID-19. Evidence has shown that COVID-19 can cause serious and potentially life-threatening illness and even death in some people.

Future Leaders of Jones County (FLJC) and Community Development Foundation of Jones County/Economic Development Authority of Jones County? has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19; however, FLJC cannot prevent you from becoming exposed to, contracting, or spreading COVID-19 while attending activities and/or sessions. It is not 100% possible to prevent the presence of the disease. Therefore, if my child decides to attend FLJC activities and/or sessions they may be exposing themselves to COVID-19.

I, as the legal parent/guardian of (print child's name) _____ acknowledge, understand, and agree to the following conditions as part of my participation in 2020-2021 Future Leaders of Jones County Program (the "Program"):

1. I and my child are aware of the highly contagious nature of Coronavirus/ COVID-19 (the "Disease") and the risk that they may be exposed to or have contact with the Disease, despite their own efforts and the efforts of Future Leaders of Jones County. I and my child also understand and acknowledge that such exposure or infection may result in illness, personal injury, permanent disability, death, or property damages.
2. I and my child understand and agree that they will not participate in any of the Program's in-person activities if they or any person living with them: (1) is currently experiencing symptoms of the Disease, including but not limited to, fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, cough, shortness of breath, chills, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, muscle aches, or any other symptoms recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"); or (2) has a suspected or diagnosed/confirmed case of the Disease.
3. I and my child understand that, while Future Leaders of Jones County has implemented preventative measures to reduce the spread of the Disease, Future Leaders of Jones County cannot guarantee that they will not become infected with the Disease because of their participation in the Program. I and my child understand that no list of restrictions, guidelines, or practices will remove all the risks of exposure to the Disease, whether in connection with their participation in the Program or otherwise. Notwithstanding the risks associated with the Disease, I and my child acknowledge that they are voluntarily choosing to participate in the Program.





4. I, for myself, my child and on behalf of my assigns, heirs, successors or agents, hereby agree to accept and assume any and all risks associated with their participation in the Program and accept sole responsibility for any injury to my child, including but not limited, to personal injury, illness, disability, death, property damage, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense of any kind (including attorney’s fees), that they may suffer arising out of or in connection with becoming exposed to or infected by the Disease because of their participation in the Program.

5. I, for myself, my child and on behalf of my assigns, heirs, successors or agents, hereby expressly waive and release any and all claims, now known or hereafter known, against Future Leaders of Jones County, Community Development Foundation of Jones County, Economic Development Authority of Jones County and their respective parents, officers, directors, employees, agents, affiliates, volunteers, representatives, successors and assigns (collectively, “Releasees”) on account of personal injury, illness, disability, death, property damage, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense of any kind (including attorney’s fees), that they may suffer arising out of or in connection with becoming exposed to or infected by the Disease because of their participation in the Program, and forever release and discharge Future Leaders of Jones County and all other Releasees from liability under such claims. I and my child understand and agree that this release includes any claims whether a Disease infection occurs before, during, or after participation in the Program.

6. This agreement is binding on and shall inure to the benefit of Future Leaders of Jones County, Community Development Foundation of Jones County, Economic Development Authority of Jones County, me, my child and our heirs, respective successors and assigns. If any portion of this agreement is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall continue in full legal force and effect.

AS THE LEGAL PARENT/GUARDIAN I AND MY CHILD HAVE CAREFULLY READ, FULLY UNDERSTAND, AND VOLUNTARILY SIGN THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT RELATING TO CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19 AND FURTHER AGREE THAT NO ORAL REPRESENTATIONS, STATEMENTS, OR INDUCEMENT APART FROM THE FOREGOING WRITTEN AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN MADE. I AND MY CHILD ARE AWARE THAT BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, I AND MY CHILD ARE GIVING UP CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS AS STATED HEREIN.

Participant’s Name: (Please Print) _____

Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian’s Name: (Please Print) _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Witness’s Name: (Please Print) _____

Signature: _____

