



FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAM INFORMATION

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 and 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 race, 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.

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 to graduate.

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.



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 may result in removal from the program and the participant not being allowed to graduate.**

****Consideration will be given for an absence due to Covid-19 when written notice is given to Program Coordinator. Covid-19 Policy and Release MUST be signed by Parent and Participant.**

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: _____ Student GPA: _____.

Principal's Signature: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN COMMITMENT

This applicant has my full approval, 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 abide with the decisions made by the selection committee and out-of-town judges.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

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 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: _____

IMPORTANT DATES:

November 12 – Applications Due
November 17-19 – Interviews
December 10 – Retreat
January 19 – Session
February 9 – Session
March 9 – Session
April 13 – Session
May 4 – Graduation

**Sessions typically
Last from
8:00am – 3:00pm**



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 applicants 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 not related to school 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. Applicants will be accepted in October. Application deadlines will be provided to the schools.
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 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 to participate in the FLJC program. No exceptions.
14. Two alternate participants will be selected to replace any participant who fails to respond to notices in a timely manner prior to the opening orientation and retreat or declines to participate for any reason.

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INSTRUCTIONS:

- Application must be typed or clearly printed in ink.
- Any application not fully completed may be disqualified.
- Return completed applications to Program Coordinator, Shelley Jones by 5pm on Nov 12.
 - MAIL: P.O. Box 527, Laurel, MS 39441
 - MAIL: shelleyj@edajones.com
 - DELIVER: 153 Base Dr, Laurel MS



APPLICATION

Name: _____ Name you wish to be called: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____.

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth (City/State): _____

Length of residence in JC: _____ High School attending: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Parent Email: _____

Parent Cell Phone #: _____ Parent Work Phone #: _____

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

Reference 1: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____.

Reference 2: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____.

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. _____

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. _____

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

FUTURE LEADERS OF JONES COUNTY ESSAY

SCHOOL RECOMMENDATION



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 & Title: _____

Organization Signature: _____

Organization Comments: _____

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



**RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT RELATING TO
CORONAVIRUS/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 2021-2022 Future Leaders of Jones County Program (the "Program"):

1. I and my child are aware of the highly contagious nature of Coronavirus/Covid-10 (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 by 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 (Print): _____ Signature: _____

Parent's Name (Print): _____ Signature: _____

Witness's Name (Print): _____ Signature: _____