



Elkhart Leadership Academy

418 S. Main Street, Elkhart, IN 46516

(574) 293-1531 | www.elkhart.org

The mission of the Elkhart Leadership Academy is to promote servant leadership through an awareness program that combines key community issues and enhanced leadership skill development to advance community stewardship.

Dear Employer,

Thank you for your interest in the Elkhart Leadership Academy sponsored by the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce. The Elkhart Leadership Academy's nine-month program is designed for high potential employees to further develop their leadership, team building and communication skills. Chamber Members are invited to have one or more of their employees apply for this year's cohort.

Participants engage with various organizations at locations around the county and region to expose them to the uniqueness this area has to offer. Session content is geared toward building hard and soft leadership and communication skills while getting the participants in front of key leaders to gain direct insights. Participants will learn about key issues facing this region and who is working on them, gain understanding of their Workplace Behavioral profiles with DiSC, and learn how to function effectively with different Workplace Styles. They will also be involved in problem solving, conflict management, decision-making, media communications and presentation skills.

Academy members will participate in a small group project over the duration of the program with local nonprofit organizations. This critical team building experience exposes them to the inner workings of nonprofits and philanthropy throughout the county and has deliverable results. They will also be asked to serve at least one-year with a service club or board of directors with a local nonprofit organization, if they are not currently serving on a board or service club or in the past.

Please carefully review, complete and return this application form to the Greater Elkhart Chamber by July 21, 2026.

Should additional information be desired, please reach out to Ginger at the Chamber at 574-293-1531.

Sincerely,

Ginger Lyons
Chamber Staff Liaison



2026-2027 Calendar

August 19, 2026 – Orientation	January 13, 2027
September 9 & 10 – Overnight Retreat	February 10
October 14	March 10
November 11	April 14*
December 9	May 12 – Graduation

Academy sessions are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the second Wednesday* of the month.

Additional time will be required each week for the impact team projects.

EMPLOYER'S AGREEMENT

Employers are in a position to recognize leadership potential. Therefore, applicants for the Elkhart Leadership Academy must have the full support and commitment of their employer because attending the overnight retreat and the subsequent eight monthly sessions is mandatory in order to successfully complete the program. In addition, the applicant will be expected to participate in a project group that will require attending meetings outside of the Academy sessions. The signature of the applicant's manager or head of the organization is needed below.

This Leadership Academy applicant has my support for the time commitment required to actively participate in the Elkhart Leadership Academy.

Manager's Signature

Date

Applicant's Signature

Date