

Application Deadline September 23, 2025

Presenting Sponsor –University of Mount Olive

Community Sponsors – Atlantic Casualty Insurance Company, The Maxwell Center, Tri-County Electric Membership Corp., & UNC Health Wayne

Friend – Spiron Solutions, Wayne Community College & Worrell Contracting Co., Inc.

JUNIOR LEADERSHIP APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Be sure to return all completed forms to:

Wayne County Chamber of Commerce
Attn: Junior Leadership Application
PO Box 1107
Goldsboro, NC 27533

Checklist of items to be returned:

- ☐ Fully complete all sections of the Application form.
- ☐ Complete Essay. Note: if the essay is handwritten, be sure the handwriting is legible and in black ink. (no pencils)
- ☐ Completion of student's GPA and signature of the School Counselor or Career Development Coordinator page.
- ☐ Completion of reference form from a teacher, counselor, or administrator from your school.
- ☐ Completion of reference form from an adult who knows you well in your community.
- ☐ Confirm with the Chamber that both of your reference and student GPA forms have been received.
- ☐ Completion of Permission & Photo Release Form.

If you have any questions, please contact Janet Brock at the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce (919) 734-2241 or cell (919) 922-7406.

Information for 2025-2026 Junior Leadership Applicants



WAYNE COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



JUNIOR
LEADERSHIP

A Program for High School Juniors

Application Deadline – Tuesday, September 23, 2025

ELIGIBILITY

Junior Leadership Wayne County is open to all Juniors who attend public, private, or parochial schools located in Wayne County. Interested students should:

- Have a solid “B” or above average.
- Possess positive social skills.
- Be involved in school and/or community activities.
- Have a desire to learn more about Wayne County.
- Be willing to commit to 100% participation.
- Have good moral character.

SELECTION PROCESS

Phase One: Application

Interested students must complete an application. All fields of the application are required and must be received by the application deadline. Junior Leadership Committee members will complete a blind review of the application and rate it on a designated scale. Each applicant must have a minimum of 2 completed reference forms and must receive a recommendation from their school counselor or career counselor. Applicant’s personal information will not be considered during this review. Selected applicants will be invited to participate in Phase Two of the selection process.

Phase Two: Discovery Day

Selected applicants from Phase One will be invited to participate in a one-day event held from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm at The Maxwell Center and will include opportunities for students to learn more about their leadership style, participate in team building activities, communicate with community leaders, and focus on various topics related to leadership. Applicants will be evaluated and scored throughout the day by committee members. Selected applicants will be invited to participate in the full 8-month Junior Leadership program. Applicants will be notified by email of their status in the selection process.

PROGRAM CALENDAR

The Junior Leadership program will meet for nine full-day sessions from October through May. Participation in all events is required, as

well as working on project assignments outside of official program days. To fulfill graduation requirements, students can miss no more than eight hours and must attend and participate in Discovery Day. **Students must make appropriate arrangements with teachers for any missed work.** Parents are invited to attend the graduation.

Oct 9	Discovery Day
Nov 4	Agri-Business Day
Dec 2	Health Care Day
Jan 13	Public Service Day
Feb 3	History & Education Day
Mar 3	Business & Industry Day
Apr 14	Seymour Johnson AFB Day
Apr 28	NC State Legislative Tour
May 12	Advocacy Day & Graduation Ceremony

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Fully complete all sections of the application then return to the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 1107, Goldsboro, NC 27533. If you have any questions, call Ms. Janet Brock at (919) 734-2241.
- ☐ Completion of student’s GPA and signature of the School Counselor or Career Development Coordinator page.
- ☐ Give one reference form to a teacher, counselor, or administrator from your school.
- ☐ Give the other reference form to an adult who knows you well in your community.
- ☐ Confirm with the Chamber that both of your reference forms have been received.
- ☐ Completion of Permission & Photo Release Form and return by application deadline of September 23, 2025.

ALL APPLICATIONS WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL.

Review all information before completing application. Make careful note of dates and requirements. Ensure you do not have any conflicts with the requirements before applying.

2025-2026 Junior Leadership Wayne County Application Form



WAYNE COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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PERSONAL INFORMATION

While information on this page is not used as part of the selection process, each line item is mandatory for participation in the program. **Please type or print legibly in black ink.**

Name (First) _____ (Last) _____ (Middle) _____

Nickname, if any _____ Home Phone _____

Home Address _____ Cell Phone _____

City, ZIP _____

Driver's License # _____ Birthdate _____

Personal Address _____ E-mail _____

Mother's Name _____ Mother's Daytime Phone _____

Father's Name _____ Father's Daytime Phone _____

School _____ Phone _____

It is important that participants attend all 8 class days. Attendance is a factor to be considered for graduation.

Do you participate in any extracurricular activities, athletics or college classes that will interfere with participating in the program?

The selection process... The selection process for the Junior Leadership program consists of two phases. The first phase is the rating of our applications. Junior Leadership committee members and/or community members will complete a blind review of your application and rate it on the following scale:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Organizations, Activities | 15% |
| • Awards & Other Achievements..... | 15% |
| • Community Involvement & Volunteer Service | 15% |
| • Work Experience (volunteer and paid)..... | 10% |
| • Essay..... | 30% |
| • References..... | 15% |

Selected applicants from Phase One will be invited to Junior Leadership Discovery Day to be held on Thursday, October 9th. If selected, participation in Discovery Day is required, and you must attend the entire day. During Discovery Day, you will be evaluated and scored through your participation and engagement in the activities scheduled throughout the day. Selected applicants from Discovery Day will be invited to participate in the full 8-month Junior Leadership program. Applicants will be notified by email of their status in the selection process.

REFERENCES – 15 POINTS

A minimum of 2 references (1-school related and 1-community related) are required to be submitted with your Junior Leadership application. Provide your references using the reference forms included with this application. References should return forms directly to the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce or place them in a sealed envelope.

	Organization/Business	Length of Service	Duties & Responsibilities
1.			
2.			

ORGANIZATIONS & ACTIVITIES – 15 POINTS

List volunteer, religious, social, athletic, other activities, or organizations in which you participated during the last 4 years. Also, list your leadership role (Captain, President, Secretary, Treasurer, member, etc.) for those activities.

	Organization/Activity	Leadership Role	Responsibilities/Involvement
1.			
2.			

AWARDS, HONORS, OTHER NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS – 15 POINTS

List special awards, honors or recognitions for academic, sports, extracurricular, competitions, conferences, school, or community activities you have received from the 7th grade to the present. Please note if the recognition was on the local, state, national, etc. level.

	Organization Presenting Award	Award Level	Name of Award/Recognition
1.			
2.			

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & VOLUNTEER SERVICE – 15 POINTS

List businesses, organizations, and individuals for which you have performed work and received financial compensation. Indicate the number of years/months you have worked and a brief description of your duties and responsibilities while at work.

	Organization Presenting Award	Award Level	Name of Award/Recognition
1.			
2.			

WORK EXPERIENCE – 10 POINTS

List areas of community involvement and volunteer service where you have performed during the last 4 years. Indicate the organization, number of years/months of participation and a brief description of your duties and responsibilities while performing the service work.

ESSAY – 30 POINTS

On a separate sheet of paper and with at least 150 words and no more than 350 words:

- ❖ Tell us about yourself.
- ❖ Why are you interested in Junior Leadership?
- ❖ What concerns do you have about our community and how would you work to promote change in the community?

All fields of this application must be completed. If you need additional space, reference the item on a separate sheet of paper and continue. The essay can be either typed or handwritten.

If you handwrite the essay, be sure to write legibly and with a pen (no pencils)!

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GUIDANCE COUNSELOR/CAREER DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR RECOMMENDATION

Present this form to your Guidance Counselor or Career Development Coordinator.

Dear Sir/Ma'am:

Please sign, print your name, and enter the GPA information listed below. Note: GPA information is used only for eligibility and will not be considered as a part of the applicant's scores.

Current Weighted GPA _____ Current Unweighted GPA _____

To the best of my knowledge, I verify that the information shown above is correct and I recommend this student for consideration in the 2025-2026 Junior Leadership program.

School Counselor/Career Development Coordinator (Signature)

School Counselor/Career Development Coordinator (Print)

Junior Leadership Wayne County Community Reference Form



**WAYNE COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**



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Please print or type legibly in black ink. To be considered a valid reference, this form must be completed in its entirety, and it must be legible.

APPLICANT'S NAME

Name (Last) _____ (First) _____ (Middle) _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Junior Leadership Wayne County must receive this form by September 23, 2025. Please sign and date the waiver below. Your reference may return this form to you in a sealed envelope or may send it directly to the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce. You are responsible for making sure it is submitted by the deadline.

Waiver of Access:

I, the undersigned, waive the right of personal access to the reference.

Applicant's Signature

Date

FOR THE REFERENCE

The person named above is an applicant for Junior Leadership Wayne County. The Selection Committee attaches considerable weight to the statements made by the references of the applicant. The Committee is aware of the time necessary to prepare such an assessment and gratefully acknowledges your help.

Please return this form by September 23, 2025, to: **Junior Leadership Wayne County**
c/o Wayne County Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 1107, Goldsboro, NC 27533-1107

Or you may return the reference to the applicant in a sealed envelope.

Name of Reference _____

Position/Title _____

Mailing
Address _____

Do Not Use the Student's Name on this form.

Name of Person giving the Reference _____

(1) For how long and in what capacity have you known the applicant? _____

(2) What do you consider the applicant's primary talents or strengths? _____

(3) What do you consider the applicant's chief weakness? _____

(4) In the space provided, please comment generally on the applicant's ability to communicate with others, his or her behavior in a group setting (participant or observer), interest in community affairs and potential for becoming a community leader.

(5) Please use the scale below to compare the applicant with other high school juniors you have known.

	Superior	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Unable to Judge
Character	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Concern for Others	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Responsibility	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Leadership	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Initiative	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Curiosity	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ability to Work with Others	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Maturity	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Poise	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Oral Communication Skills	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Persistence and Drive	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Interest in Community Affairs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Extracurricular Activities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

(Makes wise choices with extracurricular activities and follows through on commitments.)

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Poise	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Oral Communication Skills	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Persistence and Drive	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Interest in Community Affairs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Extracurricular Activities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
<i>(Makes wise choices with extracurricular activities and follows through on commitments.)</i>					