

Spring 2020 Application for Centurions Leadership Program



The Centurions Leadership Program of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce prepares a cross-section of the community's emerging leaders for their roles in shaping the future of Kansas City. This prestigious program includes active participation in educational programs and exposure to community leaders and issues. Criteria for acceptance include proven career success and community involvement. The Centurions Leadership Program seeks to select a diverse class of participants who represent all sectors of the greater Kansas City region.

Participation and time commitment: Program participants are required to attend monthly Centurions task force meetings on the fourth Friday of each month from May through January. Only one of these task forces is optional: a 3-day benchmarking trip to another city, scheduled to take place each October. In addition, attendance at the annual retreat April 22-24, 2020 is required. Each Centurion will participate in at least 20 hours of community service projects each program year, including three hours volunteering with the Centurions Legacy Project, assist in the preparation of one task force meeting, and serve on one standing committee. Participants who fail to meet the attendance expectations will be required to withdraw from the program.

Program tuition: Annual tuition for organizations with more than 250 employees is \$3,500, while organizations with less than 250 employees will pay \$2,500. The tuition payment covers the orientation retreat, incidental meeting expenses, and task force expenses. The benchmarking trip fee is an additional \$1300 and covers the flight, hotel, and programming expenses. Tuition is due prior to the annual retreat and is non-refundable.

The Centurions Leadership Program is committed to assisting participants who need financial assistance to cover tuition. A **General Scholarship** is available to participants based on a variety of factors including but not limited to: financial need, adding diversity to the program, or the nature of the organization employing the candidate. The number of scholarships and amounts awarded vary by year.

Letters of recommendation: One letter of recommendation is required, but up to three can be submitted. The letter(s) should describe the applicant's potential as a leader in Kansas City and how the applicant's leadership could benefit the community. One letter should come from the applicant's employer. The recommendation letter(s) should be uploaded with the online application. The application and the letter(s) of recommendation are due by 11:59 p.m. Saturday, February 1, 2020.

Application: The completed uploaded application, a \$75 application fee (invoice will be sent following submission of application), at least one letter of recommendation, and any additional supporting documents are due by 11:59 p.m. Saturday, February 1, 2020.

Interviews: Applicant interviews will be conducted February 10-21, 2020. Each applicant will be notified of the selection results by March 6, 2020. For more information about Centurions Leadership Program and its application process, please contact Lindsay Jarquio at the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce at (816) 374-5493 or jarquio@kcchamber.com.

PROGRAM COMMITMENT

I fully understand the attendance and tuition requirements for first-year and second-year Centurions and agree to fulfill those requirements if I am selected to participate in the program. My employer is a member in good standing of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. If my employer is not currently a member of the Chamber, I understand membership must be obtained by the application deadline. Furthermore, I certify that this application is my own original work and is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and ability.

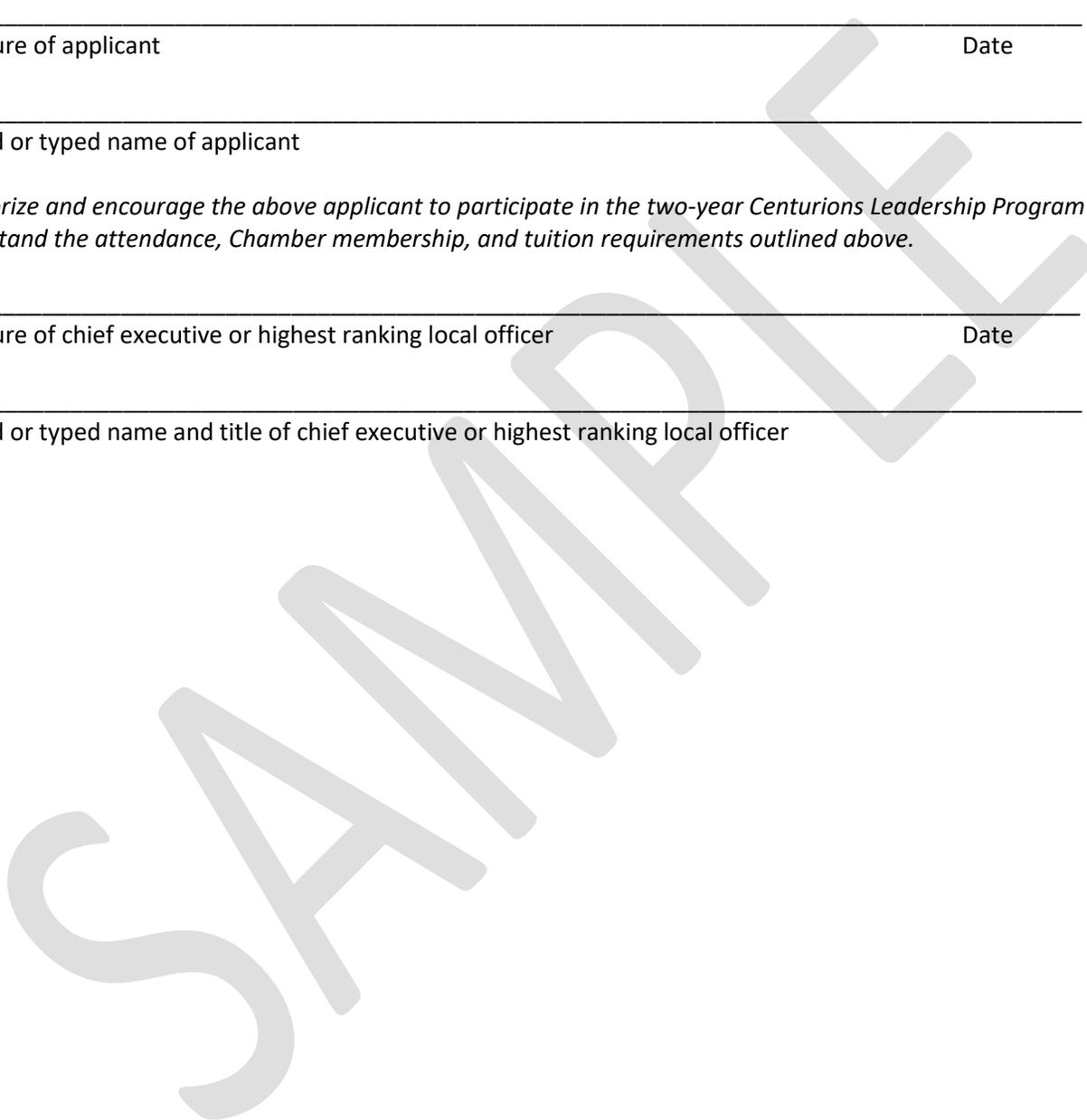
Signature of applicant Date

Printed or typed name of applicant

I authorize and encourage the above applicant to participate in the two-year Centurions Leadership Program and fully understand the attendance, Chamber membership, and tuition requirements outlined above.

Signature of chief executive or highest ranking local officer Date

Printed or typed name and title of chief executive or highest ranking local officer



APPLICANT INFORMATION

First Name:		Last Name:	
Preferred Name:			
Home Address:			
City:		State:	ZIP Code:
Cell Phone:		Twitter:	
Email Address:			
Race/Ethnicity*:		Gender*:	

**Race/Ethnicity and Gender are optional to answer*

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Begin with most recent.

School:		City:		State:	
Degree:		Dates Attended:			
School:		City:		State:	
Degree:		Dates Attended:			
School:		City:		State:	
Degree:		Dates Attended:			

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Current Employer:				
Current Title:		Title Duration:		
Business Address:				
City:		State:	ZIP Code:	
Business Phone (Direct):				
E-mail Address:				

Organization Type *(Check one.)*

- Large business (more than 250 employees)
- Medium business (50-250 employees)
- Small business (fewer than 50 employees)
- Sole proprietorship
- Nonprofit organization (more than 100 employees)
- Government entity (more than 100 employees)
- Nonprofit organization (fewer than 100 employees)
- Government entity (fewer than 100 employees)

Industry Type *(Check one.)*

- Agriculture
- Architecture, engineering
- Arts
- Education
- Environment
- Information technology
- Finance (accounting, banking, insurance)
- Law
- Media
- Social services
- Health care
- Public relations, advertising
- Service sector
- Faith organization
- Real estate or development
- Other:

Nonprofit status excludes credit unions, hospitals, and universities.

List your last two positions.

Employer:		City:		State:	
Dates Employed:		Title:			

Employer:		City:		State:	
Dates Employed:		Title:			

PROGRAM INTEREST Please limit your total response to each question to 1,750 characters.

1. How did you learn about Centurions?
2. Why are you interested in being a Centurion, and what background or experiences uniquely position you to make a positive contribution to the program?
3. Did you attend an Information Session? YES NO
4. Have you previously applied for Centurions? YES NO

The following questions are designed to learn more about you, your professional life and your community involvement. Please provide brief but thoughtful responses, limiting your total response to these questions to 250 words.

PERSONAL LIFE Please limit your total response to each question to 1,750 characters.

1. Tell us about you outside of work. For example: How do you spend your time? What are your interests or hobbies?
2. What are you most passionate about? Please reflect your individual personality or style into the answer.

PROFESSIONAL LIFE Please limit your total response to each question to 1,750 characters.

1. Briefly describe your organization and your role within it.
2. What is your approach to leadership, and how do you practice this approach in your current organization or industry? Please provide brief, descriptive examples.
3. Within your profession, what leadership roles do you envision for yourself in the next five years, and what steps have you taken to develop or grow your leadership?

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT Please limit your total response to each question to 1,750 characters.

1. Describe your involvement in your community, including current or previous experiences with school, neighborhood, civic, religious, political, athletic, social, and cultural organizations. Briefly elaborate on any contributions or achievements in these activities which you consider significant and explain your role in the activities.
2. Regarding your current community involvement, are there organizations or parts of the community in which you would like to be more involved? Why are you drawn to them?

3. Tell us about a moment that impacted you personally while you were engaged in a community service activity with your community or an organization.

HONORS AND AWARDS *Please limit your total response to 1,750 characters.*

1. What honor, award or recognition have you received for professional, community, or civic achievement that has meant the most to you? Why?

VIEWS AND OPINIONS *Please limit your total response to each question to 3,500 characters.*

One of the goals of the Centurions Leadership Program is to build a network of community leaders who can enhance their problem-solving and leadership abilities through shared perspective and collaboration. Please provide a brief but well-reasoned summary of your views on the following questions.

- 1. Most area residents acknowledge that education, transportation, and regionalism are the most significant challenges facing our community. What do you feel are three *additional* problems or opportunities facing greater Kansas City today? Why?**
- 2. The Centurions program values diversity of all kinds and is always looking to broaden and improve the program by bringing diverse groups together. Please select one of the following three questions to answer:**
 - How would you, as a Centurion, function and community effectively and respectfully within the context of varying beliefs, behaviors, backgrounds, and personal identities?**
 - How do you encourage people to honor the uniqueness of each individual, and how do you challenge stereotypes and promote sensitivity and inclusion?**
 - In what ways have you integrated multicultural issues as part of your personal or professional development?**
- 3. What challenges associated with diversity and inclusion do you see in the community and what potential strategies would you recommend to overcome these challenges?**