

# Apex 2026 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 October through June. Please note, these dates move to the third Friday in the event of holidays. Only one of these Task Forces is optional: a 3-day Benchmarking Trip to a peer city, scheduled to take place in April. In addition, **attendance at the annual Retreat from September 21-23, 2026 and September 2027 (TBD) 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 \$4,500, while organizations with fewer than 250 employees will pay \$3,100. The tuition payment covers the orientation Retreat, incidental meeting expenses, task force expenses, and program operating expenses. The Benchmarking Trip fee is an additional fee of approximately \$1700-\$2200 and covers group hotel accommodations 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. **Scholarships** are 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 **from your employer** 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 must 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. June 1, 2026.

**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. June 1, 2026.

**Interviews:** Applicant interviews will be conducted June 8-18, 2026. Each applicant will be notified of the selection results by June 25, 2026 (*all dates subject to change*). 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**

**Centurions applicants please initial next to each requirement and sign below**

\_\_\_\_\_ *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 **prior to the application deadline** or to further participate in Centurions programming. I fully understand I must maintain continued employment by a KC Chamber member company in good standing during participation as an active Centurion, as well as maintain full-time residency in the Greater Kansas City area during participation as an active Centurion.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I fully understand that attendance at the annual Retreat (including overnight stays) is required.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I fully understand that attendance at full-day Task Force meetings held the fourth Friday of each month, October through June, is required and missing any portion of three Task Force meetings will require me to withdraw from the program.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I fully understand the tuition requirements for the two-year duration of the Centurions Leadership Program and agree to fulfill those requirements if I am selected to participate in the program. Payment of annual tuition fees by the participating Centurion or employing company are due prior to each program year's Retreat.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I fully understand I am required to complete at least 20 hours of Centurions-supported community service projects per program year, including 3-hours of active participation in the work of the Legacy Project during each program year.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I fully understand I am required to actively participate in the work of the Committee and Task Force to which I am assigned during each program year.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I fully understand violating the Centurions Code of Conduct may result in removal from the program.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Furthermore, I certify that this application is my own original work and is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and ability.*

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Signature of applicant

Date

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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 program requirements outlined above.*

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Signature of **Chief Executive Officer or highest-ranking local officer at organization only if CEO is not local**

Date

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Printed or typed name and title of **Chief Executive Officer or highest-ranking local officer at organization only if CEO is not local**

*I authorize and encourage the above applicant to participate in the two-year Centurions Leadership Program and fully understand the program requirements outlined above.*

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Signature of **direct supervisor**

Date

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Printed or typed name and title of **direct supervisor**

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

<b>First Name:</b>		<b>Last Name:</b>	
<b>Preferred Name:</b>			
<b>Home Address:</b>			
<b>City:</b>		<b>State:</b>	<b>ZIP Code:</b>
<b>Cell Phone:</b>			
<b>Personal Email Address:</b>			
<b>Race/Ethnicity*</b>		<b>Gender*</b>	
<b>Preferred Pronouns*</b>		<b>Veteran Status*</b>	
<b>Do you consider yourself a member of the LGBT community?*</b>		<b>Do you have a disability?*</b>  <i>You are considered to have a disability if you have a physical or mental impairment or medical condition that substantially limits a major life activity, or if you have a history or record of such an impairment or medical condition.</i>	
<b>Age range*</b>		<b>Highest level of education completed*</b>	
<b>T-Shirt Size:</b>		<b>Dietary Restrictions:</b>	
<b>Please describe any accommodations you may need during programming:</b>			
Please provide emergency contact information to help ensure your safety and enable swift communication and support in the event of an emergency during Centurions programming.	<b>Emergency Contact Name:</b>	<b>Emergency Contact Relationship:</b>	<b>Emergency Contact Phone Number:</b>

*\*These questions are optional and intended to assess how members of various communities in the region are participating in our programming. The responses, which will be kept confidential, will help us make decisions about our outreach, engagement, and programming efforts to ensure we are effectively serving our diverse membership.*

*The Centurions Leadership Program’s mission is to prepare a representative cross-section of the community’s emerging leaders for their role in shaping the future of Greater Kansas City and are committed to providing a welcoming and safe environment for all including people of all ages, races, nationalities, ethnicities, religions, gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientations, military status, physical abilities, physical appearances, socioeconomic backgrounds, life experiences, and beliefs. Discrimination and harassment are expressly prohibited.*

**EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION** *(Please verify your information is correct and is your own. If accepted, this will be the primary contact information for you to be used by the KC Chamber and shared with participants)*

<b>Current Employer:</b>				
<b>Current Title:</b>		<b>Title Duration:</b>		
<b>Business Address:</b>				
<b>City:</b>		<b>State:</b>		<b>ZIP Code:</b>
<b>Direct Business Phone (123) 456-7890:</b>				
<b>Direct Business E-mail Address:</b>				

**Organization Type** *(Check one)*

- Large business (more than 250 employees)
- Small business (fewer than 250 employees)

**Industry Type** *(Check one)*

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

**List your most recent position if employed less than one year with current employer:**

<b>Employer:</b>		<b>City:</b>		<b>State:</b>	
<b>Dates Employed:</b>		<b>Title:</b>			

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

**1. How did you learn about Centurions?**

*Check all that apply. This information is for internal use only.*

- Centurions Actives or Alumni Recommendation
- Centurions Event (Please explain):
- Social Media
- KC Chamber Staff

- Employer                       Professional Organization  
Recommendation                      (Please explain):  
 KC Chamber Event (Please explain):     Other (Please explain):

**2. Why are you interested in being a Centurion? 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.*

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

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, including spaces.

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. Tell us about your leadership experience, be it personally or professionally, and what steps have you taken to develop as a leader?
4. In what way do you hope the program will develop your leadership skills or civic and community involvement?

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

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

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

*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 issues.*

1. What do you feel are the three most significant challenges facing Greater Kansas City today? Why?

2. The Centurions Leadership 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:
  - a. How would you, as a Centurion, function and communicate effectively and respectfully within the context of varying beliefs, behaviors, backgrounds, and personal identities?
  - b. How do you encourage people to honor the uniqueness of each individual, and how do you challenge stereotypes and promote sensitivity and inclusion?
  - c. In what ways have you integrated multicultural issues as part of your personal or professional development?
3. What challenges associated with diversity, equity, and inclusion do you see in the community and what potential strategies would you recommend to overcome these challenges?

SAMPLE