

Leadership Santa Maria Valley

Join the Class of 2026!



Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders Today

Leadership Santa Maria Valley is a Community Leadership Development Program designed to expand the community's civic leadership. Through an eleven-month program of monthly, daylong workshops and seminars, participants engage in face-to-face discussions with experts and key decision-makers in areas of vital concern to the Santa Maria Valley. Spending time together in a small class atmosphere, individuals have an unprecedented opportunity to become aware of the current social and economic changes, and their impact on the Santa Maria Valley. It is also a prime opportunity to network and become acquainted with other existing and emerging community leaders.

Vision of Leadership

To bring together people of diverse backgrounds into a community-sponsored program which will bring out the very best in each individual for the benefit of the entire community.

To Submit an Application

Please print and complete the LSMV application and return to, Terri Oneschuck, Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce, 614 S. Broadway, Santa Maria, CA 93454 or email to terrio@santamaria.com. If paying by check, please make payable to the Santa Maria Valley Community Foundation (SMVCF).



Leadership Santa Maria Valley is a program of the
Santa Maria Valley Chamber
614 S. Broadway, Santa Maria, CA 93454
805) 925-2403

Leadership Santa Maria Valley

2025-2026 Calendar of Events



Application Period	February 18 – until filled
Interviews	May 12 – June 20, 2025
Welcome Reception	August 12, 2025
Kick-off Retreat	August 22-24, 2025

Please Note: Attendance is mandatory for the entire retreat and no more than two topic days can be missed in order to graduate.

Topic Days:	First Friday of the month (unless otherwise specified)
Vandenberg Space Force Base	September 5, 2025
Agriculture	October 3, 2025
Public Safety	November 7, 2025
Youth & Education	December 5, 2025
Business & Economics	January 9, 2026 (2nd Friday)
Mid-year Retreat (half-day)	January 17, 2026 (Saturday)
Government	February 6, 2026
Health & Human Services	March 6, 2026
Sustainability & Natural Resources	April 3, 2026
Arts & Recreation	May 1, 2026
Servant Leadership	June 5, 2026
Graduation	June 12, 2026



Time Commitment

Leadership Santa Maria Valley (LSMV) is a hands-on program integrating regional orientations, academic sessions, and a wide range of active leadership opportunities. Although the majority of the program takes place on the Friday topic days, participants are expected to fully participate in all parts of the program.

To ensure participants and their employers have a good understanding of the various activities and time commitments, below is an overview.

- Initial program interview: Approximately a one-hour meeting to discuss the LSMV program and ensure it is a good fit.
- Welcome Reception: Opportunity to meet class members, LSMV board members, and discuss the upcoming retreat.
- Retreat: A Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon retreat focusing on team building and leadership skills.
- Topic Days:
 - Usually, the first Friday of every month, class members explore a specific regional topic and receive training in a leadership topic. Expect topic days to run 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Due to orientation opportunities, topic days may start at 7:30 am. Topic days are busy with very limited breaks. Working lunches are the standard. Topic days are not the same as a standard work day.
 - **Do not expect to complete work-related activities during topic days.**
 - Each class member will be involved in planning at least two topic days. Planning activities are outside of regular LSMV events. Planning involves coordinating all activities that will take place during the Topic Day. Planning should start at least 2-months before the topic day and the first meeting will be done in-person with advisors.
- Legacy Project: The class will develop and execute a legacy class project that will be completed before graduation. Class members will be required to coordinate and execute all aspects of the project from theme, location, funding, resources...
- Mid-year retreat: A half-day retreat focused on planning the Legacy Project. This is usually done at a class member's home or business.
- Life Story: Each class member will provide a brief 5-10 min life story.
- Graduation: A ceremony celebrating the culmination of your LSMV program. Immediate family members and your supervisor are invited.

I understand LSMV is focused on developing my leadership skills and understanding of the region. As a class member, I am expected to engage and support all class activities and planning efforts.

Class member: Employer:

Leadership Santa Maria Valley

2025-2026 Application



Name: Name for Name Badge:

Birthdate: (must be 21 years old by or on August 16, 2025)

Work Phone: Cell Phone:

Home Address:

City, State, Zip:

Work Email: Personal Email:

EMPLOYER INFORMATION

Employer:

Employer Address:

City, State, Zip:

Employer Phone:

Current Position:

No. of Years at Company: Supervisor Name:

Sponsoring Business or Organization:

How did you hear about LSMV?

Nominees for LSMV must have the support and commitment of their sponsoring business or organization. The signature of the head of the sponsoring organization is an indication of support for the nominee's full participation in LSMV, including the Retreat and all Topic Days. These days generally last longer than 8 hours.

Signature of Employer or Sponsor:

Title:

Signature of Applicant: Date:



Tuition Schedule

Your tuition of \$1,095 covers all program costs, topic day meals, and the team-building weekend retreat. Many employers and sponsoring organizations may wish to pay the tuition for their selected employees or members. Tuition assistance is available for qualifying individuals, small businesses or small nonprofits. Contact Terri Oneschuck, terrio@santamaria.com, for more information on tuition assistance.

Who Will Pay Your Tuition?

- My employer will pay entire fee
- My employer will pay partial fee of \$_____ and I will pay partial fee of \$_____
- I will pay entire fee

Payment Terms

A \$200 refundable deposit is required when your application is submitted. The deposit will be refunded if you are not selected for the program. If selected for the program, your \$200 deposit will be applied to your tuition. Tuition is non-refundable after the retreat.

- I have enclosed a check for \$200. Invoice me for the remaining \$895. The balance is due by August 15, 2025. Make check payable to the Santa Maria Valley Community Foundation (SMVCF).

Signature: _____ Date: _____

- Charge my credit card for the \$200 deposit now and charge me for the remaining \$895 on August 13, 2025.

Name as it appears on credit card: _____

Billing address: _____

Account number: _____

Expiration date: _____ Security code: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

- I have paid the \$200 deposit (ck or cc). Enroll me in this payment plan (these three payments, along with the \$200 deposit, will total a tuition payment of \$1195).

1. \$345 will be charged on your credit card August, 13, 2025
2. \$325 will be charged on your credit card September 17, 2025
3. \$325 will be charged on your credit card October 15, 2025

Please Note: No one will be allowed to graduate if tuition is not paid in full by December 17, 2025. In addition, you may face suspension from the program for non-payment of tuition.