

# Teen Leadership Rockland 2025-2026 Application

Thank you for applying to Teen Leadership Rockland!

Teen Leadership Rockland is a leadership development program for sophomore level high school students. The program connects youth with leadership potential with peers and community leaders through interactive sessions.

## **Program Goals:**

- Encourage participants to recognize their own potential and develop leadership skills and tools for improved community involvement.
- Provide opportunities for students from different geographical areas to develop a level of mutual trust and respect.
- Foster an awareness of community resources and volunteer opportunities and promote community service.
- Promote greater understanding of contemporary issues through interaction and problem solving with peers and community leaders.
- Develop pride in the Rockland County community.

## **Who may participate?**

The program is open to all high school sophomores who reside in and/or attend school in Rockland County and are interested in developing leadership skills for their community and future careers. No current leadership experience is required; a demonstrated ability to take initiative and a commitment to learning are equally important to the members of the selection committee.

To be considered for this program, you must submit your application (complete with letter of recommendation from an adult, non-family member) by 11:59pm on Monday, October 6, 2025. For a reduced fee, please submit your application and recommendation by Monday, September 15.

## **Interviews:**

After the final application deadline, the TLR Coordinator will contact you and your parent/guardian to schedule your half-hour interview with members of the Selection Committee. The interviews will take place between 5:00pm and 7:00pm on Tuesday, October 14, at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rockland County (10 Patriot Hills Drive, Stony Point, NY) and Tuesday, October 21, in Spring Valley.

## **Cost:**

The program cost for those who apply by October 6 is \$100; the cost for those who apply by September 15 is \$80. The fee is due upon acceptance to the program. Financial assistance is available.

If you have any questions about the program or the application requirements, please contact Kristin Ruggiero at [klf37@cornell.edu](mailto:klf37@cornell.edu).

\* Indicates required question

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### Student Information

1. Name (First, MI, Last) \*

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2. Preferred Name

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3. Personal Pronouns

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4. Address/Town/Zip: \*

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5. Home Phone Number:

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6. Student Cell Phone Number: \*

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7. Student Email Address: \*

Youth, not parents, are expected to communicate directly with the coordinator. Participants must provide a usable email address. Emails that can only be used within the school district are not acceptable.

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8. School Name: \*

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9. Grade in 2025-2026: \*

Youth must be entering their sophomore year in high school to be eligible for Teen Leadership Rockland.

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### Career Interests

This information will help us plan for specific sessions, and will not affect your application status.

10. What are your top three career interests? \*

Please list specific professions or general career fields that you are interested in pursuing.

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### Parent/Guardian Information

11. Parent/Guardian Name: \*

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12. Parent/Guardian Phone Number: \*

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13. Parent/Guardian Email Address: \*

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### Application Questions

14. Organizations and Activities: \*

Please list in order of importance community, religious, social, athletic and other organizations in which you have been involved.

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15. Experience: \*

Please describe a paid work or volunteer experience and how it impacted you. (150 word limit)

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## 16. Essay: \*

In your own words, please describe a specific experience in which you took the initiative to resolve a problem or deal with an issue. The Selection Committee is especially interested in what you learned from this experience and how you feel about the way you handled it. (approximately 250 words)

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## References

Request one letter of recommendation from an adult, non-family member to be submitted before your selected application due date. Please provide the name of the reference, their e-mail address, and their relationship to you below. Have your reference answer the reference questions or upload their recommendation letter online at <https://bit.ly/TLRRef25>. If your reference does not submit the recommendation by the due date, your application will be considered incomplete and you will be added to the following application deadline. If the letter is not submitted by October 6, you will not be considered for the program. It is your responsibility to request the letter with enough time for your reference to write and submit it by the deadline.

## 17. Reference Name: \*

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## 18. Reference Email Address: \*

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## 19. Reference's Relationship to You: \*

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## Program Information

## 20. Attendance: \*

Students are required to attend ALL sessions in full in order to receive a certificate of completion. Business casual dress is expected. Attendance is monitored and absenteeism may result in dismissal from the program. We acknowledge that issues do arise on any given day. Direct all inquiries to the program coordinator as soon as you become aware of the problem. Accommodations, where necessary and possible, will likely be made.

*Check all that apply.*

- ☐ I will attend all sessions in full and dress in business casual attire.
- ☐ I, the undersigned parent/guardian, understand the attendance policy for Teen Leadership Rockland.

## 21. Cost: \*

The program fee of \$100 or \$80 will be due upon acceptance to the program. Financial assistance is available. If accepted to the program, please immediately send the program fee (online, Venmo, or Check) to Leadership Rockland (payment details will be shared upon acceptance). Please note that refund requests will not be accepted after the program has started.

*Check all that apply.*

- ☐ I understand that refund requests will not be accepted after the program has started.

## 22. Transportation: \*

Participants are expected to arrange their own transportation to and from all session locations. If you do not have transportation, please contact the coordinator, Kristin Ruggiero, at [klf37@cornell.edu](mailto:klf37@cornell.edu). Lack of transportation will not disqualify youth from participating in the program.

*Check all that apply.*

- ☐ I understand that participants are expected to arrange their own transportation to and from all session locations.
- ☐ If I do not have transportation for one or more of the sessions, I will contact the coordinator as soon as the issue arises.

## Acknowledgements

## 23. Student Signature \*

By typing your full name below, you acknowledge that you've read and agree to the terms above.

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## 24. Parent Signature \*

By typing your full name below, you acknowledge that you've read and agree to the terms above.

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Applicants will be informed by email as to the status of their application.  
For further information, please contact: Kristin Ruggiero at [klf37@cornell.edu](mailto:klf37@cornell.edu).

Thank you for your interest in Teen Leadership Rockland!

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