



Leadership Greater Madison (LGM33) – 2026/27 Program Background and Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in applying for the 33rd cohort of Leadership Greater Madison (LGM33). Your commitment to finding ways to serve our community is appreciated and important. Before submitting your application, please read the program information and guidelines below to ensure you understand and are able to fulfill the commitment should your application be accepted into this cohort.

VISION

A thriving region led by motivated, informed and connected community stewards committed to addressing our most pressing challenges and capitalizing on opportunities to build a stronger Greater Madison.

MISSION

To inform, connect and engage individuals with a desire to lead so they are motivated and ready to address the community's most pressing challenges, capitalize on opportunities, and build an inclusive, thriving Greater Madison.

VALUES

CURIOSITY: Interest in and openness to learning and exploring multiple facets and perspectives of important community issues.

COMMITMENT: Dedication to getting involved, stepping up to lead and not being content with the status quo.

COLLABORATION: Recognition of the value of coordinated action, engaging others and seeking connection in the pursuit of solutions to challenges.

CHARACTER: Adherence to the highest standards for oneself and others and acting in a manner becoming of a leader.

THE LGM EXPERIENCE BUILDS LEADERS WHO ARE:

INFORMED: Participants will explore and more deeply understand the community, its structures and functions, and the many facets of Greater Madison's most important issues and opportunities.

CONNECTED: Participants will build personal and professional relationships with access to business, community and elected leaders throughout their time in the program and after graduation.

ENGAGED: Participants will develop the skills and tools to interact with the region's challenges and opportunities in a curious, intentional and forward-thinking way.

MOTIVATED: Participants will be encouraged to observe, learn and practice critical leadership skills throughout the program, instilling an urgency to activate their skills to better the community.

READY: Participants will leave the program with a heightened self-awareness and confidence in their capacity to lead and their role in building a thriving Greater Madison.



Great Community Leaders Start Here...

People — enthusiastic, engaged and empowered — make Greater Madison a vibrant place to live and work. For more than three decades, community leaders have benefited from the education and training provided by LGM.

LGM provides civic education, community issue literacy and leadership development to individuals from business, non-profit, government and educational organizations who live or work in the region. Monthly day-long sessions held at various locations help participants gain insight and understanding about significant local organizations and community issues. The program includes three key components: experiential learning activities to build participants' skills, meaningful connections with local officials, subject-matter experts and classmates, and networking to strengthen leadership capacity.

Over the past 32 years, LGM has helped prepare more than 900 graduates to become more effective community leaders and valued professionals.

Diversity is our strength. We strive for inclusivity and seek to engage individuals from groups that have historically been underrepresented within leadership positions. We actively recruit and offer scholarships to support this mission, and encourage individuals from all backgrounds to apply.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

1. Applicants must be residents of or work in the Greater Madison region.
2. Applicants must be nominated by a previous program participant, supporter or their employer, or be able to demonstrate leadership experience or potential as a self-nominee.
3. Applicants must commit to:
 - a. attending the opening two-day retreat.
 - b. attend all scheduled sessions in their entirety.
 - c. actively participating in team project activities.
4. Applicants must complete and submit the official LGM application. Applications can be completed online or scanned and e-mailed to lwood@wcgpr.com.
5. If additional information is needed, we may reach out to request a brief phone interview. All applicants will be notified in early August.
6. Tuition is due upon program acceptance. Checks can be made payable to Leadership Greater Madison and can be mailed to: LGM c/o Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 71, Madison, WI 53701.



PROGRAM DATES: MANDATORY ATTENDANCE

Sessions are typically held the fourth Tuesday of the month, beginning at 8:30 a.m. (8:00 – 8:15 arrival/light breakfast snacks) and ending at 5:00 p.m. Underlined sessions fall on the third Tuesday. Those dates marked with an * will include extended time (no later than 6:00 p.m.) to allow for deeper debriefing, reflection, and relationship-building within the cohort. These extended session experiences are an integral part of the program and participants are expected to attend.

- **Tuesday, September 22, 2026***: Opening Retreat – Day 1
- **Wednesday, September 23, 2026**: Opening Retreat – Day 2
- **Tuesday, October 27, 2026***: Session Day 1
- **Tuesday, November 17, 2026**: Session Day 2
- **Tuesday, December 15, 2026**: Session Day 3
- **Tuesday, January 26, 2027**: Session Day 4
- **Tuesday, February 23, 2027***: Session Day 5
- **Tuesday, March 16, 2027**: Session Day 6
- **Tuesday, April 27, 2027**: Session Day 7
- **Tuesday, May 25, 2027***: Session Day 8 - Final project presentations
- **Tuesday, June 22, 2027**: Session Day 9 + Graduation

TUITION

The financial commitment to participate in LGM33 is:

- \$3,500 - For-Profit Organization Participant
- \$5,000 - For-Profit Organization Sponsored Participant
The participant's organization will be listed as an LGM Program Sponsor on program materials and will receive sponsor recognition throughout the program year.
- \$1,750 - Nonprofit Organization Participant (501c3, Government, Education)



LGM PROGRAM CODE OF CONDUCT

Leadership Greater Madison participants and presenters are expected to engage within the program sessions and out in the community in a reputable manner to reflect honorably upon the program, fellow participants, alumni and coordinators. Failure to do so may result in removal from the program.

- **ATTENDANCE** – Attendance at the two-day opening retreat is mandatory. Attendance at all program days is expected. Those who miss more than one (1) program day may be dropped without a refund of tuition and sponsors/nominators will be notified. Typical program days run from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Four sessions include a post-session social lasting no later than 6:00 p.m. Missing any portion of a program day is considered a full-day absence. All absences require notification prior to the program date. Punctuality is critical and expected.
- **DEVICE USAGE** – To maximize your engagement in the program material and minimize distractions for yourself and fellow participants, cell phones, laptops, tablets and other electronic devices must be turned OFF or on silent during working program hours. No ringing phones, text messaging, visible phones or other devices are allowed during sessions. Electronic devices may be used during scheduled breaks, which are noted on the agenda for each program day.
- **RESPECT FOR GUESTS & OTHERS** – Each program day will include guest speakers. Please demonstrate respect for these guests and your fellow classmates by being attentive, courteous, and engaged.
- **CONFIDENTIALITY** – The class may discuss topics of a sensitive nature throughout the program year. Please respect your classmates and others by maintaining confidentiality within the class.
- **DECLARED ELECTED POLICY** – Members of LGM may participate in the political process by supporting candidates and running for office. If a member of the class becomes a candidate for office while in the program, they are not permitted to campaign while participating in LGM events. This includes soliciting other class members for money or support during the LGM program and announcing yourself as a candidate when introducing yourself or speaking to guests at LGM events. All members of LGM must introduce themselves by the organization they are representing while participating in the program.
- **NO SOLICITATION AND NO DISTRIBUTION POLICY** – Members of LGM must abide by a No Solicitation and No Distribution policy, which prohibits class members from soliciting business and/or distributing fundraising appeals or materials during LGM activities. In addition, class members may not solicit or distribute any literature or other material to raise funds for business, charitable or other causes, or to promote or advertise a business or cause to any class member during the LGM program year.

To confirm you have read and agree to these guidelines and to submit your application, please go to: www.madisonbiz.com/lgm. For questions or additional information about the LGM program, please contact Program Director Lynn Wood at Wood Communications Group, lwood@wcgpr.com or 608-575-6547 (cell).