

# Leadership Jackson County

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## Objectives

Leadership Jackson County is a program led by Jackson County Alabama Extension. It is designed to develop and enhance community leadership and networking. Participants are provided with diverse experiences that will help them gain expanded knowledge of our county, develop relationships, and acquire leadership skills that would allow them to become more effective and active contributors in addressing our county's issues and needs. This is a program designed for men and women interested in the future of Jackson County.



Agriculture and Natural Resources Day

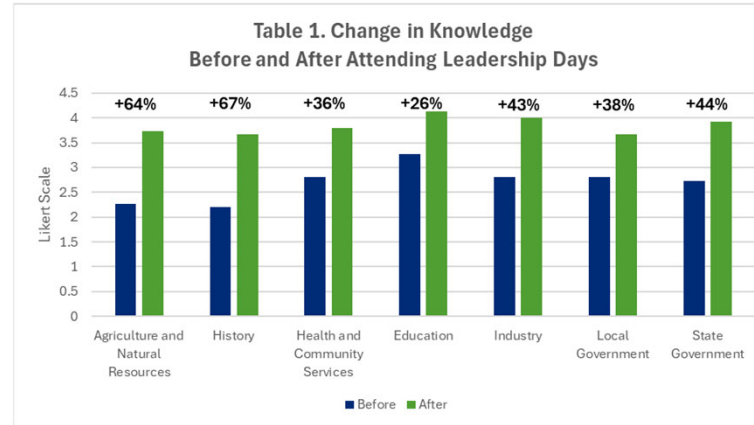
## Introduction and Background

Leadership Jackson County was created in 1992. Initially, there was a need for a program designed to help educate community leaders about attracting industry to the area and developing the workforce in Jackson County. With the progression of the program, other areas of emphasis that were identified included networking, marketing, community service and developing individual leadership skills. This leadership program provides monthly Leadership Days highlighting the different aspects that are important to the economy and character of Jackson County. This program has repeatedly proven to be valuable to participants whether they are a current long time resident or a new resident.

A unique aspect of this program compared to other leadership programs is that the participants of the prior class are responsible for co-chairing the Leadership Days for the present class. Co-chairs are responsible for building an agenda, securing sponsorships for meals and travel, and securing transportation if needed. Sponsorships and in-kind donations are critical for keeping program costs manageable. This has been a great way for the current class to connect with the prior class.



Leadership Days allow participants to network and learn about opportunities in Jackson County.



**Table 2. Participant Views After Completing Leadership Jackson County (Scale 1 to 5)**

The leadership program met my expectations.	4.93
The program provided valuable learning experiences.	4.93
I would recommend this program to others.	5.00
The program helped me connect with colleagues across the county.	4.87
I am more likely to collaborate with other entities in the county.	4.93
The cohort structure fostered a sense of community and shared purpose.	4.87
The facilitators were engaging and knowledgeable.	4.87
The learning activities (presentations, discussions, site visits, etc.) were effective.	4.87
I have increased awareness of countywide operations and issues.	4.87
The program will have a lasting impact on my leadership development.	4.93



State Government Day in Montgomery



Team Building during Orientation Day

## Activities

Each month, there is a different Leadership Day that includes a field trip. The co-chairs are responsible for the agenda, travel, meals and sponsorship needs for the day. An exception is the State Government Day. The County Extension Director coordinates with the Mountain Lakes Chamber of Commerce for an overnight trip to Montgomery called Montgomery Drive In. Due to this partnership and having larger group, the class has gotten to meet and hear from the Governor of Alabama and other state public officials.

### Leadership Days

- September – Orientation
- October – Agriculture and Natural Resources
- November – History
- December – Health and Community Services
- January – Education
- February – State Government (Montgomery Drive In)
- March – Local Government
- April – Industry
- May – Graduation

## Outcomes

A survey was conducted with 65 past participants using a Likert Scale style questionnaire. Response rate was 23% and overwhelming positive for the impact of the program. Eighty percent of past participants had lived in Jackson County for more than 30 years. Overall, past participants said that their knowledge of Jackson County increased by 56% after completing the program. Before and after knowledge of the topics of the Leadership Days also increased (Table 1). Participant views were positive at the completion of the program (Table 2).

### Comments

- *Absolutely impacted me!*
- *My experience was wonderful! I learned so much about my county that I didn't know before.*
- *I would highly recommend this program for anyone that wants to learn more about Jackson County.*
- *I made a lot of connections and learned a lot about Jackson County that I was unaware of.*
- *The Leadership Program exceeded my expectations! The most valuable part was the connections and networking.*
- *Connections. I have met so many new people that have helped me with various things since completing Leadership.*
- *LJC has helped me to reach out and become more of a willing participant in areas where I was previously super-reluctant.*
- *I would do it again if I could!*

## Acknowledgements

Alabama Cooperative Extension  
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