

Cedar Park Youth Leadership Academy FAQ



The Cedar Park Youth Leadership Academy prepares the next generation of community leaders by giving students firsthand exposure to the people, places, and industries that shape Cedar Park. Through monthly sessions, site visits, and leadership development experiences, students build the skills, confidence, and community awareness needed to make a lasting impact.

What is the Cedar Park Youth Leadership Academy?

The Cedar Park Youth Leadership Academy is a nine-month leadership program for Leander ISD high school juniors and seniors. Through hands-on experiences, site visits, and conversations with local leaders, students gain a deeper understanding of their community while building leadership, communication, and civic engagement skills.

Who can apply?

The program is open to Leander ISD high school juniors and seniors who are involved in a CTE Program.

What is the goal of the program?

The goal is to help students grow as leaders by exposing them to the people, industries, and institutions that shape Cedar Park and the surrounding region. Students gain a clear understanding of how business, government, healthcare, nonprofits, and community leadership all work together—while also building the awareness, skills, and connections needed to become part of the region’s future workforce.

How long is the program?

The program runs from September through May and follows a monthly session format. Most class days are approximately 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

What kinds of topics are covered?

Students participate in themed sessions throughout the year, including:

- Chamber of Commerce Day
- Healthcare Day
- City Government Day
- State Government Day
- Non-Profit Day

- County Government Day
- Economic Development Day

What happens during a session?

Sessions are designed to be interactive and engaging. Students may tour local businesses, visit public institutions, meet community leaders, hear from professionals, and explore real-world career paths. For example, students visit places such as the Texas Capitol, Cedar Park City Hall, healthcare facilities, nonprofit organizations, and local employers.

What are the attendance expectations?

Students are expected to attend all sessions and fully participate in the program. To graduate, participants may miss no more than one class absence (with approved excuse) during the program year. Tardies and partial-day absences count toward that total.

Is transportation provided?

Students should have reliable transportation to designated meeting locations. For some sessions, the Chamber and Leander ISD may coordinate bus or group transportation when appropriate.

Is this modeled after Leadership Cedar Park?

Yes. The Cedar Park Youth Leadership Academy is modeled after the Chamber's Leadership Cedar Park program and mirrors its structure by offering site visits, interactive sessions, and real-world leadership development opportunities for younger participants.

How do students apply?

Students complete an application and submit a 300–500 word cover letter or short essay explaining why they would be a great fit for the program and what they hope to gain from the experience.

When are applications due?

According to the current application materials, applications are due by May 9, and selected applicants are notified by May 19.

What are students expected to do once accepted?

Students are expected to attend a mandatory orientation, be on time, stay engaged, follow program guidelines, and represent themselves, their school, and the program in a professional manner. Cell phones should be turned off during session times except during breaks or emergencies.

Why should a student participate?

This program gives students the chance to grow in confidence, build leadership skills, make valuable connections, and gain firsthand exposure to careers, civic leadership, and community issues. It is a strong opportunity for students who want to challenge themselves and become more involved in their communities.

Who leads and supports the program?

The Cedar Park Youth Leadership Academy is a program of the Cedar Park Chamber of Commerce Foundation, offered in partnership with Leander ISD. The program is supported by community partners and sponsors, including Hanyang ENG as presenting sponsor.

Who can I contact for more information?

For more information, contact the Cedar Park Chamber of Commerce at 512-260-7800 or reach out to Andrea Kornegay.