



Class of 2026-2027

Application and Commitment Form

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Business/Organization Name: _____

Title: _____

Email address: _____

Business Phone number: _____ Mobile Phone number: _____

Business/Organization Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I hold an HR certification from SHRM and would like GMG to submit Leadership Institute for recertification credits.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. How did you hear about the Leadership Institute program? Who referred you?

2. Please share information on your professional background in 100 words or less (or attach a resume)

3. Describe the reasons for your participation and skills you wish to strengthen during the program.

Level of Commitment

TIME COMMITMENT

The Greater Mankato Leadership Institute designates 11 full-day learning sessions between September 2026 and May 2027, including an overnight in St. Paul. Please consider your availability before applying, as participants are expected to attend all sessions. Class members will not be eligible to graduate from the program if more than two of the 11 full-day sessions are missed.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT

I have read the Greater Mankato Growth materials, discussed the benefits of the program with my supervisor, and agree to the time commitment stated above.

Applicant Signature

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

The all-inclusive participation fee is \$2,700. Applicants must be employed by a Greater Mankato Growth members at the Engaged level or higher. Payment to Greater Mankato Growth must be received by September 1, 2026 and is non-refundable after that date. An early bird rate of \$2,500 is available through May 29, 2026.

EMPLOYER COMMITMENT (if applicable)

Supervisor: Please share with us why you feel this employee would be a good candidate for the Leadership Institute:

I have discussed with the employee the benefits and time commitment of the Leadership Institute stated above. The employee will be allowed release time to attend all sessions, September through May.

Name of Supervisor (please print)

Title

Signature of Supervisor

Supervisor Email Address

Applications will be considered in the order they are received. To help ensure your spot in the upcoming class, please apply early. Early bird rate is available through May 29, 2026.

Please return by mail or email to Jake Rinehart: jrinehart@greatermankato.com

Greater Mankato Growth
Attn: Jake Rinehart
3 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 100
Mankato, MN 56001



GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE GREATER MANKATO LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE APPLICATION PROCESS

(This page is for information only and does not need to be returned with the application.)

In order to foster an effective learning environment, a maximum of 40 class members will be accepted to the program each year. Applications will be considered on a first come, first served basis. Please consider applying early to ensure a spot in this year's program. All applicants will be contacted in late June to schedule an optional small group discussion to learn more about the expectations of the program and to ask questions.

If more than 40 applications are received, the Steering Committee may reduce the class size by asking some candidates to reapply the following year or by asking businesses with multiple applicants to reduce the number of candidates for the current program.

Session dates and topics for the 2026 – 2027 program:

- **September 24:** Opening Session
- **September 25:** Ropes Challenge Course at Minnesota State University, Mankato
- **October 21:** The History of Greater Mankato
- **November 18:** What's My Emotional Intelligence? What's My Leadership Style?
- **December 16:** Serving Our Community (An immersive session on community volunteerism)
- **January 13:** Public & Government Services
- **February 17:** Leadership Effectiveness, Conflict Competency, and Ethics
- **March 10 & 11:** Effective Advocacy & Civic Engagement (Overnight in St. Paul)
- **April 21:** Food & Agriculture in Greater Mankato
- **May 12:** Identifying Your Goals and Priorities; Graduation Celebration

Note: Typically, each session begins at 8:30 am and runs until 4:30 pm. Accommodations can be made for participants with physical disabilities or those not comfortable with the high ropes course activities.

Please contact Jake Rinehardt at 507.385.6655 or jrinehardt@greatermankato.com with questions about Greater Mankato Leadership Institute.