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Purpose of Leadership DeSoto Alumni Program:

Leadership DeSoto Alumni is a revitalized and dynamic initiative designed exclusively for graduates of previous Leadership DeSoto classes. This alumni-only program empowers past participants to play an active role in shaping the future of leadership across DeSoto County.

Separate from the traditional Leadership DeSoto track, this program leverages the experience, insight, and connections of its alumni to strengthen the foundation of civic engagement, revamp and enhance current programming, and invest meaningfully in our community's continued growth and success.

Leadership DeSoto Alumni 2025–2026 Program Tuition & Requirements:

Tuition for the 2025–2026 Leadership DeSoto Alumni Program is $625 per participant. This fee covers all lunches, and session materials. A signed Code of Conduct is required and included with the application, which must be completed in full to be considered.

Leadership DeSoto Alumni is dedicated to welcoming qualified applicants who are actively contributing to the betterment of DeSoto County. We seek individuals who demonstrate a continued commitment to leadership, service, and community growth.. Tuition may be paid by the participant, their employer, or a combination of both.

The completed application for the 2025–2026 Leadership DeSoto Alumni Class must be submitted by

Monday, August 11, 2025

1. Contact Information

Name:	Title:
Company:	Email:
Mailing address:	Date of Birth:
City, State & Zip:	Gender:
Cell phone:	Business phone:

2. Education - list higher education, including short courses or continuing education.

School:	School:
Degree:	Degree:
Graduation Year:	Graduation Year:

3. Employment Information

Primary Occupation / Employer:
Job title:

Briefly describe your greatest responsibility, skills and/or career achievement:

4. Prior Leadership Program Participation

Which Leadership DeSoto class were you a part of, and what year did you graduate?
If applicable, please list any positions you held during your time in the program (e.g., President, Treasurer):

5. Community Involvement

Please list your memberships, dates of service, and any offices held in organizations such as college, professional, civic, church, industry, or political groups.

6. Essay Question

Please Note: This is your only opportunity to introduce yourself to the Selection Committee, as we do not conduct interviews or accept letters of recommendation. Please take your time and answer the question thoughtfully. While we encourage a thorough response, be sure to stay within the space provided—no additional pages or attachments, please.

Question:
Why do you want to participate in the Leadership DeSoto Alumni program, and what qualities, experiences, or perspectives do you bring that would make you a valuable addition to the upcoming class?

7. Application Agreement

If Accepted:

- ☐ I have cleared my calendar on the appropriate dates.
- ☐ I understand that any funds generated by the class fundraiser will be distributed by the DeSoto County Chamber of Commerce Foundation.
- ☐ I will attend a minimum of 5 out of the 6 day-long class days. If I am going to be absent from a class or mandatory event I will communicate in writing to the program director prior to the event.
- ☐ I understand that participation in the Leadership DeSoto Alumni program requires full commitment. If I miss more than one class day, I will be dismissed from the program.
- ☐ I understand that the $625 tuition is due by August 11 and that I am personally responsible for any portion of tuition not paid by my employer.

***If Employer pays for any part of tuition, they will be notified of any class absences.**

By signing this application, I acknowledge and accept the commitment outlined and agree to uphold it if selected to participate in Leadership DeSoto Alumni Program .

Signature _____ Date _____

10. EMPLOYER AUTHORIZATION (if applicable)

I approve the participation of _____in the Leadership DeSoto program. This applicant has the approval and full support of this organization, including the time required to successfully complete the program. I have reviewed and approve of the applicants commitment in section 9 of the application. (For applicants who answer directly to a board of directors, such as an executive director of a non-profit organization, please have the board president or chair sign)

Signature _____ Date_____

Title_____ Organization_____

Email_____ Phone_____

I agree to pay $_____of the Leadership DeSoto Alumni tuition for the above applicant if accepted. I understand the tuition is nonrefundable and nontransferable.

Signature _____ Date_____

LEADERSHIP DESOTO ALUMNI

DESOTO COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Bridging our History with our Future.

Alumni Class I Schedule

Session times typically run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., though some days may start earlier or end later depending on the agenda.

Participants are allowed only one excused absence in order to be eligible for graduation.

2025	
Thursday, September 18	Evening Exchange (5pm-7pm)*
Wednesday, October 15	Shaping the Future
Wednesday, November 19	Marketing
Wednesday, December 17	Brew and Build (1pm-8pm)*
2026	
Wednesday, January 21	Preserving DeSoto County
Wednesday, February 18	Behind the Business
Wednesday, March 18	Graduation/Fundraiser

Disclaimer: Dates, locations, and class topics are subject to change based on availability and scheduling needs.