

January 2021

Dear Student Leader:

Congratulations! We are pleased to inform you that you have been nominated to participate in the **UthMpact Leadership Program**. It is an exciting program offered by InnerAct Alliance, the StandUP Polk Coalition, the UthMpact Coalition, and key business partners designed to help youth develop crucial leadership skills.

Approximately 40 Polk County high school students will be chosen, based on demonstrated scholastic achievement and community leadership experience, to take part in this 9-month program that offers a unique opportunity to experience the inner workings of local government, healthcare, education, and law enforcement. Involvement will help to further cultivate leadership skills, and may be advantageous to you in other ways, including valuable exposure to top employers in the county, and possible future scholarship opportunities. Additionally, you will have an opportunity to share the knowledge and skills you learn with your peers at your high school.

Participants will spend six school days (with excused absences), once per month (September through March, excluding December), traveling throughout the county to meet with key community leaders, learn about the services they offer, and discuss the challenges that face our community now and in the future. The program is provided at no cost to the school system or to the participating students. Participants are required to attend an overnight retreat in the summer for a fee of \$30. (Scholarships are available). Themes for the UthMpact Leadership days include: Volunteerism; Health & Wellness; Education; Law Enforcement; Government; and Business. Participants will enjoy behind the scenes facility tours and take part in hands-on learning experiences. Each day will conclude with a general meeting, at which students will meet with their peers, report about their experience, and address issues and solutions to better our community.

The Polk County School Board and your school Administrators support this effort and have empowered us to reach out and invite you to apply for this great program.

Here is what you need to do.

- 1) **Fill out the attached application.**
- 2) **Submit 2 essays.**
- 3) **Return your application and 2 essays to your school office. These can be sent via the Polk County Schools Courier or the U.S. Postal Service, in the enclosed envelope, by March 1, 2021**
- 4) **Before sending, make sure that you and your parent, or guardian, have signed the application.**

Again, congratulations on your nomination! If you have any questions about UthMpact and/or the UthMpact Leadership Program, please contact Samantha McCain, UthMpact Coalition Coordinator, (863) 802-0777. Applications will be reviewed by current UthMpact members, and you will be contacted in **early/mid April of 2021**, via email and a letter sent by regular mail, regarding acceptance.



Application for Leadership Program (please print neatly)

Name _____ Nickname _____ Gender F or M

School _____ Age ____ Birthday _____ Graduation Year _____

Do you speak a second language fluently? Check Yes No What language(s): _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ **Student's Cell #** _____

Student's Shirt Size: (Circle) S M L XL 2X 3X

Student's Email Address (*Main form of communication*):

Student's Facebook Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ **Parent/Guardian Contact #** _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ **Parent/Guardian Contact #** _____

Parent/Guardian Email Addresses: _____ / _____

The **UthMpack Leadership Program**, spearheaded by InnerAct Alliance, the StandUP Polk Coalition, the UthMpack Coalition, and key business partners, is designed to help youth develop crucial leadership skills. Approximately 40 students will be chosen to participate in this 9-month program that offers a unique opportunity to experience the inner workings of local government, healthcare, education, and law enforcement. Participants will spend 6 school days (with excused absences), once per month (September through March, excluding December), meeting with key business, government, and community leaders across the county to discuss the challenges that face our community now and in the future.

The students chosen for the UthMpack Leadership Program must have demonstrated scholastic achievement and/or community leadership experience, and possess a desire to further cultivate their leadership skills. It is also required that participants pledge to be alcohol, tobacco, and drug free to set an example for their peer group. Additionally, any and all schoolwork that is missed on days spent taking part in the UthMpack Leadership Program must be completed.

***Eligibility will also require missing 6 days of school,
with each day lasting from 6:45 a.m. – 6:45 p.m.***

If you meet the above requirements and wish to participate in the UthMpack Leadership Program, please sign below, along with your parent or guardian.

Deadline: Please return signed form and essays by **March 1, 2021**.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature



Application Essays for Leadership Program

Applicants for the UthMpack Leadership Program are required to complete 2 essays using the subject prompts on the list below. *You must respond to one question in each of the two sets of questions listed below.* **Each of the essays must be a minimum of 250 words, typed in double-space, with a maximum of 500 words, and be submitted on separate sheets of paper. No handwritten essays will be accepted.**

Set One

1. Describe one significant impact you can make on your community. Why is this important?
 2. How have you been a leader in your community? How do you perceive that this program could help you to become a better leader?
 3. Define what Teamwork means to you.
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Set Two

4. Describe your past community service experiences. How have they benefited your community?
5. Describe, in detail, one specific time that you solved a problem.
6. What qualities make someone a good leader? Why?



UthMpack Leadership Program 2021 - 2022

Parent Meeting	May 5, 2021
DiSC Profile Training + Training Retreat	July 22, 2021
Business Etiquette Dinner	August 25, 2021
Leadership Day	September 1, 2021
Project HOCO Distribution Days	TBD September/October 2021
Leadership Day	October 6, 2021
Red Ribbon Run (4:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the very latest)	October 16, 2021
Leadership Day	November 3, 2021
Leadership Day	January 12, 2022
Leadership Day	February 2, 2022
Project Prom Distribution Days	TBD February/March 2022
Leadership Day	March 2, 2022
Leadership Graduation (Evening event)	April 6, 2022 (parents/guardians invited)

**** ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO
CHANGE DUE TO COVID19 ****

Things to Remember:

- UthMpact Members will receive an excused absence from school for each Leadership Day (i.e. September 1st, October 6th, November 3rd, January 12th, February 2nd and March 2nd).
- There are 6 UthMpact Leadership days and Coalition meetings. Each day begins at **6:45 a.m. and will end at 6:45 p.m.** at the Polk County Sheriff's Office, 1891 Jim Keene Blvd., Winter Haven.
- UthMpact Members can only miss **one** Leadership Day during the entire year. Leaving early at any time during a Leadership Day will be considered an absence. And no student can drive themselves, they must be picked up from current location IF leaving early!
- Please **eat breakfast** before you arrive. Lunch will be provided. **Parents will share the responsibility for dinner and snacks.**
- Community Service Hours will be earned during the Leadership Days, the Coalition Meetings, and all other events attended.

Leadership Class XI Graduation Requirements:

There are five mandatory events outside of the 6 Leadership Days. They are:

1. The **Parent Meeting on the evening of May 5th** at the Polk County Sheriff's Office (1891 Jim Keene Blvd., Winter Haven) – attendance at this meeting is mandatory for the parent/guardian, as well as all UthMpact Leadership Class XI members. Before the parent meeting, all paperwork and the \$30 retreat fee must be turned in.
2. **DiSC Personality Training on July 22nd** -- this half day training students will learn about their personality and how it applies to leadership. They will learn how to communicate with others that differ from them and explore different scenarios through various exercises.
3. **UthMpact Leadership Class XI Retreat on July 22nd**– this half day retreat will feature Mr. Patrick Grady, nationally known motivational speaker, as well as team building activities, and a chance for the members of Class XI to get to know each other.
4. **InnerAct Alliance's Annual Red Ribbon Run** will take place on the morning of **October 16th** at Lake Mirror in Lakeland. InnerAct Alliance allows UthMpact to have a concession stand to raise funds for college scholarships for qualified members. **Every UthMpact student will be there from 4:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. NO Exceptions!**
5. Complete an additional 30 hours within UthMpact through various events. Events will be announced at each Coalition Meeting.