



FOUNDERS

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TEEN LEADERSHIP CLASS OF 2027

Teen Leadership Venice is a program providing area high school students with a chance to enhance their knowledge and develop leadership skills that will empower and motivate them to become involved and committed to their community.

Students who will be freshmen, sophomores, juniors or seniors during the 2026-2027 school year are eligible to apply.

Selection Process

Participants for the program are selected based on the application and reference. No fee is due prior to acceptance. The thoughtful completion of the application correctly and completely on time is part of the application process.

How to Apply

1. Complete the first three pages of the application.
 - a. If your application is not complete, your application may not be considered.
2. Sign your name at the bottom of page three.
3. Prepare and attach your essays to your application.
4. Request that your high school principal complete the permission form and send it directly to Charlie Thorpe at cthorge@venicechamber.com.
5. Applications must be submitted by August 28, 2026

Mail application to:

Charlie Thorpe

Venice Area Chamber of Commerce

597 S Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL 34285 or email to: cthorge@venicechamber.com

CLASS OF 2027 APPLICATION

Personal Information

Name _____

First

MI

Last

Preferred name _____ Birth Date _____

Home address _____

Street

City

Zip

Home telephone _____ Cellphone _____

Email address _____ School _____

Teen Leadership Information

How did you find out about Teen Leadership Venice? _____

Principal Permission Form: The Principal Permission form, the final page of this application, must be completed by the school principal. The students understand that they must follow the school protocol for absences and must advise the school prior to each absence.

Please respond to the following questions and attach your completed essays to your application. These essays are an important part of the application.

A. Leadership

Describe what it takes to be a leader and provide an example of when you demonstrated one or more of these skills. (Maximum one page, double spaced)

B. Perseverance

Every obstacle we face in life comes with an opportunity to learn something new. Describe a challenge that you have faced, how you persevered and what you learned from the experience. (Maximum half page, double spaced)

C. Future

What do you see yourself doing in 10 years? (Maximum half page, double spaced)

Parent/Guardian Permission

If accepted, my son/daughter has permission to participate in this program. I understand this includes the Saturday orientation and the scheduled program days.

I understand that the principal of the high school must approve the students' participation and the student must follow school protocol for their absences.

I also give my permission for my son/daughter's photo to be used on the Venice Chamber website and in marketing materials.

Planned Class Schedule

September 26, Orientation (9:00 AM – 12:00)

October 20, Arts & Culture Day

November 17, Health & Human Services Day

December 8, Community Awareness Day

January 12, Law Enforcement Day

February 9, Commerce and Industry Day

March 9, Venice History Day

April 6, Graduation, **5:30 PM**

All Classes are 1:00 – 5:00 unless otherwise noted.

Name of parent/guardian (please print)

Parent email

Parent Signature

Student Agreement

I certify that the answers given herein are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I am a high school student who is in 9th – 12th grade in the 2026-2027 academic year.

Attendance

If selected, I commit to attending the opening orientation and all subsequent sessions. I understand the fee to participate is \$50. The fee is totally refundable if the student completely attends all sessions. (Students must arrive on time and leave at the designated dismissal time.) 100% attendance is expected by each participant. Two excused absences will be allowed if prior permission is received by the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce. (Any absence voids the refundable fee.)

Photograph Release

I give permission for my photograph to be used on the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce website and in any Venice Area Chamber of Commerce marketing materials.

Name of applicant (please print)

Date

Signature of applicant

ALL COMPLETED APPLICATION MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE CHAMBER BY August 28, 2026



CLASS OF 2027 COMMUNITY REFERENCE

Part 1: Completed by the Applicant

Name _____

First

MI

Last

I understand that the information provided by the reference will be kept confidential and will not be divulged to me at any time.

Signature of applicant _____

Date _____

Part II: Completed by Community Reference (not a teacher, parent or relative)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Relation to Student _____

The above student is an applicant for the Teen Leadership program. The program is designed to enhance the knowledge of and develop leadership skills in a diverse group of high school juniors the empower and motivate them to become involved and committed to their community. The sessions feature a lively combination of speakers, small group experiences and tours.

1. How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant? _____

2. Give examples of the applicant's primary talents or strengths. _____

3. What would this student contribute to the program? _____

4. Why is this opportunity important for the student? _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Please submit this form by August 28, 2026, to Charlie Thorpe, Venice Area Chamber of Commerce, 597 S Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL 34285, or email to cthorge@venicechamber.com. **DO NOT RETURN TO THE APPLICANT.**



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CLASS OF 2027 PRINCIPAL PERMISSION

To be completed by the School Principal

All applicants must have approval from their school principal to attend the sessions of the Teen Leadership program.

I approve of the participation of _____ (Student name) in the Teen Leadership program for 2026-2027. The student meets the criteria of being academically sound and in good standing. I hereby approve the program days as absences per school protocol.

Principal Name (Please print) _____

Signature of Principal _____

Please submit this form by August 28, 2026 to:

Charlie Thorpe, Venice Area Chamber of Commerce, 597 S Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL 34285, or email to cthorge@venicechamber.com.

Any questions may be directed to Charlie Thorpe, Leadership Venice Director, direct line 941.800.1482.