

Call for Candidates

Leadership Santa Maria Valley Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders Today



Leadership Santa Maria Valley is currently accepting applications for the Class of 2026. This will be our 31st year serving our Community and preparing future Community Leaders!

Why should you consider Leadership Santa Maria Valley? Are you looking for a way to get more involved in the community? Do you want to expand your circle of influence within the Santa Maria Valley? Would you like to be able to network/connect with the decision makers and key leaders in our area as well as further develop your leadership skills?

“Leadership Santa Maria Valley opened my eyes to the vast activities, diversity and capabilities that this valley has to offer. The networking opportunities were never-ending, and the Leadership training was outstanding. This program builds community trustees.

-Paul Klock,
Class of 1997, Retired Federal Chemist”

LSMV is a 10-month leadership program designed to foster and create future community leaders. The program allows participants to increase their understanding of local issues, challenges and solutions while expanding their personal and professional networks and refining their leadership skills. Each Class gives back to the community with their own unique Legacy Project. Founded in 1995, LSMV has over 400 graduates in a variety of leadership roles in the government, service and business sectors today.

“It has been a privilege and a joy to participate in Leadership Santa Maria Valley. Born and raised in Santa Maria, I didn't expect to learn and visit so many places I'd never been before and, in some cases, didn't even know about. I've made valuable and meaningful connections with my classmates. The leadership speakers have provided useful and encouraging instruction. I recommend this program to anyone who wants to see Santa Maria in a new way and to feel empowered to make an impact on the community.

-Jamie Perez,
Class of 2024, Community Engagement Coordinator for the Santa Barbara Foundation”

Students engage and interact with community and civic leaders in areas of Military/Aerospace, Arts and Recreation, Public Safety and Justice, Youth and Education, Health and Human Services, Business and Economic Development, Government, Sustainability and Natural Resources, and Agriculture. The unique mix of monthly day-long seminars and small class atmosphere give participants an unprecedented opportunity to learn about the issues facing their community and to engage with civic leaders.

“ The LSMV class was a great way to learn about all that our area has to offer, in addition to how we can help make it better for all who live here. I’m honored to be able to have given back to the community with the class legacy project. I would do it again in a heartbeat.

-Emily Kitts,
Class of 2020, Owner – Naughty Oak Brewery”

Successful communities and businesses require strong leadership. If you are ready to be part of the solution and leadership of the community, please consider joining Leadership Santa Maria Valley.

“ LSMV not only allowed me to expand my network and gain new friendships, but also increased my knowledge of the history and offerings of our generous community. I’ve been able to recognize my strengths and weaknesses, while further developing my skills to become a leader with a vision that inspires and motivates people to achieve personal and professional success.

-Lacy Litten,
Class of 2018”

Applications for LSMV Class of 2026 are now available! Interviews will be held in May/June with our Candidate Orientation and Kick-Off Retreat scheduled for August 2025. Please contact Leadership Program Director, Terri Oneschuck, at terrio@santamaria.com or at 805.925.2403 x824.

We look forward to having you join our dynamic program!

Warm Regards,

Terri Oneschuck

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Program Director