



2027 PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND APPLICATION

ACEC Tennessee's Advancing Leaders program is a competency-based leadership initiative focused on senior and mid-level leaders in both the private and public sectors. The competencies included in this customized program include self-development, perspective, learning on the fly, presentation skills, conflict management, political savvy, delegation, listening, interpersonal savvy, and building effective teams. Program participants will gain leadership skills while networking with members from other ACEC Tennessee member firms as well as federal government and state agencies.

Commitment

The 2027 Advancing Leaders program will include a two-day orientation session and four additional monthly sessions of 1.5 days each. Sessions will be facilitated by experts in each competency and will include discussions with leaders from our partnering agencies, including the Tennessee Department of Transportation, Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation, Tennessee Valley Authority, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Sessions will typically include educational topics, team building activities, networking opportunities, and a tour of a partner agency facility. All participants who complete the course will be recognized in a graduation ceremony held in conjunction with the last session.

The following are session dates for 2027:

- ▶ Welcome Dinner (Nashville) – January 27, 5:30-7:00pm
- ▶ Session 1 (Nashville) – January 28-29
- ▶ Session 2 (Knoxville) – February 25-26
- ▶ Session 3 (Memphis) – April 1-2
- ▶ Session 4 (Chattanooga) – April 29-30
- ▶ Session 5 (Nashville) – May 20-21 (Graduation)



Instructions

Please complete each section fully. The application must be signed by both the applicant and the employer/sponsor and received by ACEC Tennessee no later than Friday, November 13, 2026.

Email application to scook@acectn.org and kanderson@acectn.org.

Selection Criteria

Advancing Leaders participants are selected through a competitive process open to persons working in Tennessee. Applicants must be full-time employees of an ACEC Tennessee Member Firm or public agency partner. PE or similar certification is strongly preferred.

Participants will be chosen by the Advancing Leaders Selection Committee based upon the information provided on this application. The committee will be seeking representation from a cross-section of the state in both private and public sectors.

Applicants must have been working in Tennessee for one year prior to submitting the application and have the full support of the organization or corporation they represent.



I. Personal Data

Application Date: _____ T-shirt Size: _____

Name: _____
(Last, First Middle) (Jr., Sr., Etc.) (PE, PG, PLS, EIT, Etc.)

First Name (or nickname preferred for name badge): _____

Business Address: _____
(Number, Street, City, Zip Code)

Mobile Phone: (____) _____ Business Phone: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

List any food allergies or special health requirements: _____

Please list your college education below:

School	Degree	Major

II. Employment

Present Employer: _____

Type of Organization (Private or Public): _____

Title/Responsibility: _____ Since: _____
(Month/Year)

Briefly describe your job responsibilities:

Please indicate your professional specialty (e.g., civil, chemical, electrical, or mechanical engineering; surveying; geology; etc.):

Please list any professional registrations held (PE, PG, PLS, LEED AP, PMP, PTOE, AICP, etc.):



III. Professional Affiliations/Community Involvement

Include state, community, civic, religious, political, government, social, volunteer activities, athletic, or other activities. Also include business/professional activities. Indicate positions held within the group/organization.

Name of Group/Organization	Positions Held or Significant Accomplishments	Period of Affiliation (Mo./Yr. to Mo./Yr.)

IV. Awards and Recognitions

Include professional, state, community, civic, religious, political, government, social, or other activities.

V. Tuition & Other Costs

If accepted into the Advancing Leaders program, you will be billed for the tuition fee of **\$4,250**, which covers all program costs, excluding lodging and transportation to and from session sites. An invoice for tuition will be sent to those accepted and **must be paid prior to the first session**. Tuition is not refundable. Other costs incurred during this program (travel, lodging, travel meals not provided by the program, etc.) are not included in the tuition fee and will be the financial responsibility of the participant and/or their employer.



VI. Commitment

Participants are expected to participate in all five (5) session of the Advancing Leaders program. While we understand that emergencies arise, any participant missing more than one session, for any reason, may be asked to withdraw from the program and no portion of the tuition shall be refunded.

Applicant Commitment

What motivates you to pursue Advancing Leaders and how does it align with your long-term leadership goals?

What do you hope to gain personally and professional from your participation in Advancing Leaders?

Describe how you approach collaboration and learning with peers. How will that approach contribute to the Advancing Leaders experience?

How do you plan to contribute to ACEC and/or the industry following your participation in Advancing Leaders?

Participant Pledge

If selected, I will devote the time and resources necessary to fully engage in the program. I understand the above commitments and agree to be bound by them in signing this application. Additionally, I agree to actively participate in ACEC Tennessee and/or other industry related organizations during the year following my graduation from Advancing Leaders.

Applicant Signature

Date

Resume

Applicants must also attach a current resume/CV. If selected, you will be asked to provide a headshot and bio prior to the first session.





VI. Recommendation and Employer Commitment

Please complete the following based on your understanding of Advancing Leaders and the applicant's character. Your answers should be succinct; however, if you wish to make additional comments, please add them on an additional sheet.

Applicant's Name: _____
(Last, First Middle) (Jr., Sr., Etc.) (PE, PG, PLS, EIT, Etc.)

How long have you known the applicant?

What is your relationship with the applicant?

Why should this applicant be selected for Advancing Leaders?

This applicant has the full support (including time and financial) of our organization, and we commit to making Advancing Leaders a work priority.

Name of Person Making Recommendation

Title

Name of Company

Email

Signature

Date

