

Program Schedule

Intro to Program Meeting with Parents

Mon., Oct. 5, 2026

4:00PM, Board of Education

**Kickoff, Team Building, and
Strategic Planning Session**

Wed., Oct. 7, 2026

Quality of Life Session

Wed., Oct. 21, 2026

Post-Secondary Ed. Readiness Session

Wed., Nov. 4, 2026

Agriculture Session

Wed., Nov. 18, 2026

Local Government Session

Wed., Dec. 9, 2026

Local Education Session

Wed., Jan. 20, 2027

Economic Development Session

Wed., Feb. 17, 2027

State Government Session

Wed., March 17, 2027

Charter Bus to Nashville

6:00AM - 5:30PM

Finance and Investing Session

Wed., April 7, 2027

**FCBYLWC and Signature Adult
Leadership Programs Graduation &
Weakley Chamber Membership
Awards Banquet
April 2027**

How is the Program Funded?

The majority of the program's costs are generously covered by First Community Bank of the Heartland. This vital sponsorship allows the program to operate at no cost to students & families. Additional support is offered at times from various generous community partners.



Reviews & Student Testimonials

"This program is an amazing way to make connections all throughout Weakley County, grow as a leader, and learn about lesser known careers. This is a great opportunity for any student."

Caroline Stephenson, Dresden High

"The most valuable part of this experience for me was getting to see all the sites and learning so much about Weakley County. It taught me so much I wouldn't have ever known and I am so thankful I was given the opportunity."

Paisley McClure, Gleason High

"Getting to know other students from across the county, connecting with leaders in our county - I would definitely recommend this program. I've learned about leadership, how our county works, and made great friendships as well."

Ellie Pitt, Greenfield High

"This program offers a great mix of practical learning, personal development, and community engagement. It's a chance to explore new ideas, build connections, and discover opportunities you might not have considered otherwise. Exploring local places helped me appreciate what our community has to offer."

Anna Kate Rhodes, Westview High

Ready To Apply?

**Student
Application**



**Reference
Form**



**First Community
Bank of the Heartland**

Youth Leadership Weakley County



Step into Leadership and Discover What's Possible

The First Community Bank of the Heartland Youth Leadership Weakley County Program takes students beyond the classroom to experience their county in a whole new way. Students step inside local businesses and industries, meet the people behind them, and learn how decisions are made, communities are shaped, and careers are built. Along the way, they develop leadership skills, make valuable connections, and discover opportunities they may never have known existed right here in Weakley County.



The Weakley Chamber
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What is First Community Bank Youth Leadership Weakley County?

The First Community Bank of the Heartland Youth Leadership Weakley County program (FCBYLWC) is an exciting opportunity for students who want to build leadership skills, connect with peers across the county, and discover how their local communities work. Throughout the school year, students explore real-world challenges, meet local leaders, and learn how to make a difference in their communities. The program introduces them to career paths they may not have considered and helps them develop the confidence and tools that can help them take the lead. Students who complete the program earn a half credit toward high school graduation, make lasting friendships, and gain a network of professionals, business and industry leaders, and elected and appointed officials across Weakley County.

Our Mission

The mission of FCBYLWC is to prepare the next generation of local leaders right here in Weakley County. This program helps students explore the strengths and challenges in each unique community, understand how different industries work together, and learn what it takes to lead, problem-solve, and work as a team. This is a program for students who want to get involved, take initiative, and be part of building a stronger Weakley County.

Application and info also available online at: weakleychamber.com/chamber/programs/youth-leadership

Who Can Participate?

FCBYLWC is open to current sophomores at any Weakley County high school. Participants must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher, be in good academic standing, and have no significant attendance or disciplinary issues. Students must also be willing to commit fully to the attendance, participation, and behavior expectations throughout the program. High school counselors will confirm eligibility before students are selected.

When Does Leadership Meet?

Applications open August 17, 2026. Selected students will be notified the week of September 28, 2026. The program runs from October 2026 through April 2027. Session days begin at 8:00AM and end by 2:00PM so students can return to school in time for dismissal. Full session dates are provided in this brochure, on the application, and on the Chamber's website at weakleychamber.com.

How Do Students Apply?

Students can complete the application online. All applications must be submitted by 5:00PM on Friday, September 17, 2026, and must include two letters of recommendation from community leaders. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Visit the website below or scan the QR Code to view the application. →



This Year's Focus: Making Connections

This year's focus is "Making Connections." Students will build relationships with one another and connect with business leaders, professionals, educators, and community members across Weakley County. These connections can become valuable resources as students consider their futures, offering advice, guidance, career insight, and introductions to others who can help along the way. Students will also learn the value of being a connector themselves, building relationships they can draw on and contribute to for years to come.

How Are Students Selected?

Students are chosen through a blind selection process. Applications are scored using assigned school and student codes. Judges do not see any names, personal details, or family information. Applicants must complete a detailed application and submit two recommendation letters from leaders in the community. Judges score each application based upon demonstrated leadership potential, a strong academic record, and a clear interest in community involvement. Five students from each of Weakley County's high schools will be selected to participate.

