



RISING LEADERS ACADEMY

The Rising Leaders Academy is a program developed by the Ames Alliance, Boone County Chamber and Story City Chamber/Main Street to develop the community leadership potential of area high school Juniors in the Ames region. It is a goal for us to provide area youth with a unique opportunity to interact with community leaders and institutions, to explore educational and career options and broaden their perspectives on community issues and the importance of leadership in their communities.

The Rising Leaders Academy is a youth leadership program that seeks to encourage and equip the participants to be more effective leaders in school and the community and provide opportunities for relationship building and professional networking.

The Rising Leaders Academy is an 8-month leadership experience that begins in October 2026 and concludes in April 2027.

Participants will grow in their understanding of exemplary leadership.

Participants will come away from the Rising Leaders Academy with a greater understanding of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges present in our communities.

Participants selected for the Rising Leaders Academy will listen to presentations, debate issues, participate in class activities, visit area leaders, and tour facilities.

Participants will also complete a community service project.

Tuition for the Rising Leaders Academy will be free to the participating high school Juniors.

Class size will be limited to 25 participants.

It is the desired goal of the Ames Alliance, Story City Chamber/Main Street, and Boone County Chamber that the leadership skills developed during the Rising Leaders Academy by the class participants will then be taken back into the schools during the participants' senior year of high school and used for the benefit of their respective schools and classmates. Scheduled days will begin at **8:30 AM** and conclude at **12:00 PM**, unless otherwise noted.

Session topics will include (subject to change and dates tentative to change due to weather):

October 27	Orientation/Welcome & Healthcare Day (Ames)
November 11	Education/College Day (Ames) - Wednesday
December 1	Resume/Leadership & Alliance Annual Luncheon (Ames) – <i>Dismiss at 1:30 PM</i>
January 26	Entrepreneurism/Small Business Day (Boone)
February 23	City/County Government Day (Nevada)
March 23	Agriculture Day (Story City)
April 27	Student Presentations & Graduation Day (Huxley)

This application becomes complete and valid when the following materials have been received:

1. **Application**
2. **Parent and Principal Permission Form completed**
3. **Two (2) Personal Reference Forms completed**

Complete all information using this form only.

Deadline for completed material is September 16th, 2026. Please email completed applications to

jenavieve@amesalliance.com.

If you have any questions, please contact Jenavieve Christensen by phone at 515.720.3697 or by email at

jenavieve@amesalliance.com.

Personal Information:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Preferred Name "Nametag": _____

This is the name that would be used on a nametag to be work during classes. For example, this could be a nickname that you prefer in lieu of your given name.

Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Parent or Guardian's Name: _____

Parent or Guardian's Address (if different): _____

Email Address: _____

Please provide the email address which you would prefer to receive correspondence from the Rising Leaders Academy and its representatives.

Parent or Guardian's Email: _____

Emergency Contacts:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone Number: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone Number: _____

School Experience:

Middle School Name: _____

High School Name: _____

List up to five (5) school related activities in order of importance in which you have participated during the last two (2) years:

Name of School Club/Organization

When Involved

What was your role?

What school activities would you like to be in that you are not currently participating in? Why?

(for example: time of year; time of day; conflict with work; expense)

List up to five (5) non-school related activities in order of importance in which you have participated during the last two (2) years: *(ex: community/civic/religious/scouting/volunteer/athletic, etc.)*

Name of Club/Organization

When Involved

What was your role?

List any special recognition or honors for academic, school, religious, or community related activities you have received over the last two (2) years.

Work Experience:

List any job experiences, paid or volunteer, and briefly describe the responsibilities involved.

About You:

We are looking for leaders that represent the following categories. Select one category that best describes you and explain why.

_____becoming a leader (have showed some experience leading)

_____could be a leader (shows interest but needs skill and opportunity)

If you could change anything about your school, what would it be and why?

What three (3) things concern you most about life in your community?

Why do you want to be part of the Rising Leaders Academy?

How do you define leadership?

If selected, you must be in good standing in the community and commit to attending all the Rising Leadership Academy sessions and graduation. Full attendance by each participant is mandatory if Rising Leaders Academy is to meet its objectives.

I understand and accept the attendance requirements for the Rising Leaders Academy.

Student Signature

Date

Please give the enclosed reference forms to two (2) adults who know you well, excluding parent/guardian (ex. teacher, employer, faith leader, etc.) Remind each person that the reference form is due to the Rising Leaders Academy by **September 16, 2026**.

Please complete the following which indicates to who you gave the reference forms.

1. _____

Name of reference

Position/Title

2. _____

Name of reference

Position/Title

Parent and Principal Permission Form

Parent Approval

Application will not be considered unless this and all other forms are submitted by the deadline.

I am the parent/legal guardian of _____(student name).

I have read the information on the Rising Leaders Academy and am willing to have my child participate. I understand that attendance at all sessions including graduation is mandatory. The Rising Leaders Academy have my full permission and consent to transport and otherwise provide transportation for my child be it a public service bus, private automobile, van or other appropriate means of transportation in connection with all sessions of Rising Leaders Academy during the school year in which he/she is a participant.

I hereby release and hold harmless Rising Leaders Academy, its members, agents, or any individuals in the planning, organization or presentation of Rising Leaders Academy programing, for any accident, injury, illness or any damage whatsoever related to the above-mentioned student's attendance at or participation in any activity or session of Rising Leaders Academy. I release my child's photographs for promotion and marketing for current and future Rising Leaders Academy materials.

Parent(s)/Legal Guardian Name (please print)

Signature of Parent(s)/Legal Guardian Name

Date

Address

City

Zip Code

Contact Phone Number

School Approval Form

All applicants MUST have the approval of their schools principal to attend the eight (*) mandatory sessions and graduation of the Rising Leaders Academy. Please have your principal sign below:

I approved of the participation of _____(student name) in the Rising Leaders Academy program for 2026-2027 school year. The student meets the criteria of being academically sound and in good standing.

Principal Name (please print)

School Email

Contact Phone Number

Signature of Principal

Date

Applicants will not be considered unless this and all other forms are submitted by the deadline.

Student Name

To the Reference: The person listed above is an applicant for the Rising Leaders Academy. It is in an interactive, hands-on experience aimed at young people who are beginning to show leadership potential and an interest in the community. The Selection Committee attaches considerable weight to the statements made by the reference of the applicant. Thank you for your time in preparing this information for the Selection Committee.

Please type or print. Use this form only and this side only. Applications will be reviewed in confidence.

Name of adult reference

Position/Title

School/Business/Religious Group/Organization

Address

City, State

Zip Code

Email

1. Length of time you have known the applicant? How do you know the applicant?

2. Tell us something you find unique about the applicant.

3. Please comment generally on the applicant's interest in community affairs.

4. We are looking for a well-rounded class. Which best describes the personality of the applicant?
_____ becoming a leader (have showed some experience leading)
_____ could be a leader (shows interest but needs skill and opportunity)

5. What else would you like to say about the applicant?