



In honor of Karen Brown

Leadership OBX 2026-2027 Application

Leadership OBX, a professional development program of the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce, is now accepting applications for the Class of 2026-2027. The Outer Banks Chamber launched Leadership OBX in 2014 to develop a cohort of business professionals with a greater understanding of the Outer Banks region and a network of individuals ready to serve on boards and in other volunteer leadership roles in the region. The primary objective of Leadership OBX is to educate business and organizational professionals about economic, demographic and social resources, as well as the successes and challenges of our diverse area. The Class of 2026-2027 runs from early November 2026 through April 2027 and includes a welcome reception, retreat (Monday/Tuesday), and 10 full-day sessions all scheduled on Wednesdays. Program participants develop life-long friendships and enduring professional connections as well as a deeper understanding of the community we live in. In 2026, the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors unanimously voted to rename the program Leadership OBX in Honor of Karen Brown, recognizing her vision and lasting contributions to leadership development in our community.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Completed applications must be received by close of day on **Friday, September 18, 2026**
- Applicant will be notified of acceptance by October 9, 2026
- Tuition is \$1,000. Tuition includes welcome reception, retreat, meals and program related costs.
- Full tuition is due by October 25, 2026.

NAME:
NAME FOR BADGE:

PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS:	
CELL PHONE:	# OF YEARS ON OBX:

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

EMPLOYER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION ADDRESS:
WORK PHONE #:
CURRENT TITLE:
HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED FOR YOUR EMPLOYER?

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>DATES OF INVOLVEMENT</u>	<u>POSITION HELD</u>

GENERAL INFORMATION (USE ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NEEDED)

WHY ARE YOU APPLYING FOR THE LEADERSHIP OUTER BANKS CLASS OF 2026-2027?

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO GAIN FROM YOUR PARTICIPATION IN LEADERSHIP OUTER BANKS?

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IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT ARE THE TWO MOST CRITICAL ISSUES FACING THE OUTER BANKS REGION?

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IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT ARE THE TWO MOST PRESSING SOCIAL ISSUES IN OUR REGION?

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ATTENDANCE

To complete the Leadership OBX program, full participation is expected. Attendance guidelines are as follows:

- **2-Day Retreat and Welcome Reception are MANDATORY**
- **10 full day sessions, approximately once every two-three weeks from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. See class schedule for dates.**
 - o **One missed session will be excused; a second missed session will require a make-up assignment. Three missed sessions may result in the participant being dropped from the program with no refund of tuition.**

Are you committed to attend and participate in all program sessions? YES NO

MISCELLANEOUS

DO YOU HAVE A FOOD ALLERGY OR SPECIAL DIET RESTRICTION?

TUITION

The full tuition for the program is \$1,000. Tuition includes all retreat and session expenses. Carpooling will be necessary for most of the sessions; this allows the class to get to the various session locations in an efficient manner.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Limited **partial** scholarships are available for both employees of non-profit organizations and small businesses (less than 5 employees). (use additional pages as needed)

WHY DO YOU FEEL YOU SHOULD BE AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE LEADERSHIP OBX PROGRAM?

SIGNATURES

CANDIDATE:

I understand the purpose of the Leadership OBX program and if I am selected, I will devote the time and resources necessary to complete the program. I understand that I am responsible for any tuition not paid by my employer or financial sponsor or by scholarship assistance. I understand that tuition is non-refundable and is due by October 23, 2026.

I understand that completion of this application does not guarantee my acceptance into the Leadership OBX class. (All applicants will be notified of their status on or about October 9, 2026.)

Application deadline is September 11, 2026.

Candidate’s Signature Date

**Leadership Outer Banks
2026-2027 Calendar**

Monday, November 2nd and Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026 – Retreat

Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026 – Welcome Reception

Wednesday, November 18th, 2026 – Economic Development

Wednesday, December 2nd, 2026 – Healthcare

Wednesday, January 6th, 2027 - Government

Wednesday, January 20th, 2027 – Public Safety

Wednesday, February 3rd, 2027 – Social Issues

Wednesday, February 17th, 2027 - Education

Wednesday, March 3rd, 2027– Environment

Wednesday, March 17th, 2027 - Currituck

Wednesday, March 31st, 2027 - Tourism

Wednesday, April 14th, 2027 – Hatteras

Wednesday April 28th, 2027 – Graduation

**PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO HUNTER WALSH AT
HWALSH@OUTERBANKSCHAMBER.COM OR CALL (252) 441-8144.**