



LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

2026 PROGRAM

Friday, March 6th

8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Kickoff Retreat

Location: Blowing Rock Conference Center

Orientations, class materials, meet classmates, team building exercises

Sunday, March 8th

3:00 pm – 5:30 pm

History of Blowing Rock

Location: Historical Museum or Library

Afternoon high tea to hear from locals and historians about Blowing Rock's history.

Wednesday, March 11th

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Civic Engagement

Location: Blowing Rock Town Hall

Presentations from government, city, and county officials; functions and operations will be reviewed.

Wednesday, March 18th

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Economic Development

Location: Chetola Resort

Tour local businesses, speakers to discuss the local economy. (Sectors: Tourism, real estate, retail, services)

Wednesday, March 25th

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Workforce Development

Location: Watauga High School

Role of the local continuing education; Watauga EDC, NC Works, and the new RISE.)





Infrastructure and Environment

Tour waste water treatment plant; discuss the environmental challenges and infrastructure challenges our communities are facing.

Arts and Culture

Review the role that the Arts play in our local community and economy.

Health and Human Services

Presentations and tours planned by local organizations, social services and other community based groups.

Graduation Dinner

Review the program; closing speaker to tie the program together. Graduation speaker to challenge the class into the future.

