



## 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.)



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**Wednesday, April 1st                    1:00 pm – 5:00 pm                    Infrastructure and Environment**

**Location:** Blue Ridge Conservancy

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

**Wednesday, April 8th                    1:00 pm – 5:00 pm                    Arts and Culture**

**Location:** BRAHM Community Room

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

**Wednesday, April 15th                    1:00 pm – 5:00 pm                    Health and Human Services**

**Location:** Samaritan's Center

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

**Wednesday, April 22nd                    1:00 pm – 5:00 pm                    Closing Session**

**6:00 pm – 7:30 pm                    Graduation Dinner**

**Location:** Blowing Rock Country Club

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



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