



Dear Student:

Thank you for your interest in participating in FORERUNNERS. You must be an upcoming junior to apply for the program. Attached is the application, which must be completed in its entirety and received along with a \$100.00 application fee and a 4 x 6 picture of applicant **no later than April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 p.m.** Please make checks payable to The Chamber of Commerce. If you are not selected for the program, the fee will be returned to you.

The interviews will be held April 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. After all applications are received you will be emailed by April 22<sup>nd</sup> if you are selected to interview for the Forerunners program. You can call or email to schedule your interview at this time. The interviews will be conducted between 2:30 & 5:00 p.m. in 30 minute intervals via Zoom. We will not call you to schedule your interview nor will we allow you to schedule an interview after the deadline. If you call and I am not available, please leave your name, number, school and your preference for an interview date/time and I will return your call. You can e-mail me at [jill@tuscaloosachamber.com](mailto:jill@tuscaloosachamber.com) or call me at 205-391-0555.

The class will be selected after the interviews from the public and private high schools of Tuscaloosa County. If you are selected and then change schools you must notify me immediately. Make sure your application is legible and complete. When choosing your teachers for references make sure they know the importance of the deadline. You must attend at least seven (7) of the eight (8) sessions. If you miss more than one (1) session, you cannot graduate. The first session and SIMSOC are mandatory sessions. Forerunners will not meet in the month of December. Transportation to the various locations is the responsibility of the participant.

The Chamber is located at 2222 9<sup>th</sup> Street Tuscaloosa 35401. If you are mailing your application, please use correct postage.

Again, thank you for your interest in FORERUNNERS, and we look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,

Jill McDonald  
Director of Leadership and Community Engagement  
[jill@tuscaloosachamber.com](mailto:jill@tuscaloosachamber.com)  
205-391-0555

# FORERUNNERS APPLICATION

A Leadership Program Coordinated by The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama

## PERSONAL INFORMATION:

First: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Name you prefer to be called: \_\_\_\_\_ Home/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Race: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthplace: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## SCHOOL INFORMATION:

Name of High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade you are currently enrolled in: \_\_\_\_\_

## ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES:

Please list in order of importance to you: School, Volunteer, Religious, Athletic or other Activities or Organizations in which you have participated during the last two years.

### ORGANIZATION/ACTIVITY

### YEAR

### POSITION HELD

|       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

How much time do you commit to these activities each month? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you consider your most important achievement so far? \_\_\_\_\_

List up to three special awards, honors or recognitions for academic, school or community related activities you have received:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Main area of interest in studies: \_\_\_\_\_

## WORK EXPERIENCE

List any part time job experience, paid or volunteer, and briefly tell what it involved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**GENERAL INFORMATION (Use additional sheets if necessary)**

**A. Why do you want to participate in FORERUNNERS?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B. What do you feel are the most significant problems facing Tuscaloosa County? (limit to three)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**C. What do you feel needs to be done to address one of these issues?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**D. What are the most notable opportunities which you believe the Tuscaloosa community has to offer? (limit to three)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**E. What are two important issues facing teenagers today?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**F. What are your long range goals; what role do you see yourself in seven years from now? (whether school, business, politics, community)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**G. What do you think are the most important characteristics of a leader?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**REFERENCES**

Please give a reference form to two (2) of your *high school teachers*. You may include teachers from your previous (freshman) year. Other references will NOT be accepted (youth ministers, elementary school teachers, employers, family friends, etc.)

1. Name of first reference: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name of second reference: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR REFERENCES MUST BE RECEIVED BY April 2<sup>nd</sup> AT 4:00 pm. PLEASE MAKE SURE THE ABOVE INDIVIDUALS ARE VERY AWARE OF THE DEADLINE. YOUR REFERENCES CAN BE MAILED, EMAILED TO) jill@tuscaloosachamber.com BUT THEY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE FOR ANY REASON.**

**COMMITMENT**

To complete the FORERUNNERS Program a participant is required to commit to attend the following sessions during the course of the year.

7 sessions  
8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.  
Traditionally every 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday  
September through April (excluding December)

Attendance is mandatory for the session in October. Excused absences are limited to one session and must be documented by parents and school. If more than one session is missed, participant will not be able to graduate from FORERUNNERS. While participating in this program, you must attend the school from which you applied. If you change schools after you are selected there is a chance you will be removed from the program.

I agree with the attendance policy and commitment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

As a parent or guardian of the above applicant, we approve of his/her participation and commitment to FORERUNNERS.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

**SCHOOL COMMITMENT**

The applicant has approval from this school to participate in FORERUNNERS.

Verify C Average \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature, Principal (must be school principal, please print and sign)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Principal's Comments:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

Application and required fee should be mailed to  
Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama  
P.O. Box 20410  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35402

Please make check payable to  
Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama  
\*Weigh mailed application for proper postage.  
We will not go to the post office to pick up mail  
with insufficient postage.

**FORERUNNERS REFERENCE FORM**

Please print. Do not type.

**Applicant Name**

First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

**TO THE REFERENCE:**

The student above is an applicant for FORERUNNERS. The selection committee attaches considerable weight to the statements made by references of the applicant. The committee is aware of the time necessary to prepare such an assessment and gratefully acknowledges your help.

**This form must be received by the selection committee no later than April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 p.m. Student application will be considered incomplete without it. You can return it to the applicant or mail it to:**

**FORERUNNERS  
P.O. Box 20410  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35402**

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Position/Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School/Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1. For how long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Please use the scale below to compare the applicant with other high school sophomores you have known.**

|                                    |                                      |                                    |                               |                                  |                               |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Character</b>                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |
| <b>Dependability</b>               | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |
| <b>Leadership potential</b>        | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |
| <b>Initiative</b>                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |
| <b>Teamwork</b>                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |
| <b>Maturity</b>                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |
| <b>Oral communication</b>          | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |
| <b>Persistence &amp; Drive</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |
| <b>Community interest</b>          | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |
| <b>Ability to explore problems</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |

**3. What do you consider the applicant's primary talents or strengths?** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. What do you consider the applicant's chief weakness?** \_\_\_\_\_

**FORERUNNERS REFERENCE FORM**

Please print. Do not type.

First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

**TO THE REFERENCE:**

The student above is an applicant for FORERUNNERS. The selection committee attaches considerable weight to the statements made by references of the applicant. The committee is aware of the time necessary to prepare such an assessment and gratefully acknowledges your help.

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1. For how long and in what capacity have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Please use the scale below to compare the applicant with other high school sophomores you have known.

|                             |                                      |                                    |                               |                                  |                               |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
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| Dependability               | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |
| Leadership potential        | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |
| Initiative                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |
| Teamwork                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |
| Maturity                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |
| Oral communication          | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |
| Persistence & Drive         | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |
| Community interest          | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |
| Ability to explore problems | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |

3. What do you consider the applicant's primary talents or strengths? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What do you consider the applicant's chief weakness? \_\_\_\_\_

**2021-2022 FORERUNNERS PERMISSION FORM**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, parent/guardian of  
\_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_

hereby give my permission for him/her to participate in the activities sponsored by The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama Association. I understand such activities may include, but are not limited to, classes, field trips and lectures. I represent and agree that my child/ward is physically fit with no known medical conditions or disabilities that would prevent or impair his or her ability to engage in the activities associated with this program. I understand that my child will be arriving on time and will have transportation to each session. I hereby agree to, on behalf of myself and my child/ward, hold The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama and its affiliates and associates harmless from any liability arising out of my child's/ward's participation.

Done this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2021.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian)

There is financial assistance available; please contact me directly for more information.

Jill McDonald  
205-391-0555  
jill@tuscaloosachamber.com