

Leading Edge | PROGRAM REVIEW 2018

THE PROGRAM

The Leading Edge program began in 2012 and is Leadership Pikes Peak's comprehensive community leadership program developed specifically for Pikes Peak Region high school teens. Students in the Leading Edge program come from all backgrounds and walks of life (including but not limited to ethnically, culturally, socioeconomically, and geographically). Students complete the program with a better understanding of themselves, their personal communities, and the city in which they live and play. They are equipped with the skills and empowerment to be the next great leaders of our community.

THE CLASS OF 2018

Students accepted into the 2018 program had to complete an application, obtain a nomination, and interview with the Leading Edge team. We accepted 21 students from 12 local high schools, including public, private, charter and alternative schools. In order to keep the Leading Edge program affordable for all families, regardless of their financial situation, Leadership Pikes Peak has set the tuition for Leading Edge at \$500, though the program costs an average of \$1,200 per participant to facilitate. In addition to an already discounted tuition, Leadership Pikes Peak, with the help of our financial investors, offers scholarship assistance. Of this year's class, 85% of the students received some type of financial assistance to pay for the program tuition. The total amount of scholarship funding provided was \$6,800.



21 STUDENTS
from
12 HIGH
SCHOOLS

The 2018 Leading Edge program took place over 11 sessions throughout the summer. Each session offered a new community leadership topic with topic specific locations to explore and community leaders to meet. Students explored topics such as homelessness, diversity/inclusion, public safety, arts, environment, local history, mental health/wellness, local government, cyber security, and manufacturing.

Students also completed the Strong Interest Inventory personality assessment, through which they were able to explore their interests and leadership styles to better apply themselves to community service and make our community a greater place to live. With the Strong as a base for their personal leadership styles, they participated in team building, communications, diversity, and project management trainings.



\$6,800 of
SCHOLARSHIP
FUNDING
awarded

We are proud to say that we had a 100% graduation rate, showing the deep commitment of all participants to this year's program.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

In addition to session days, students completed community service group projects. These projects are proposed by local non-profits who are looking for a teen perspective within their organizations. The projects allow students to practice creative thinking and community stewardship as they apply what they are learning in the Leading Edge program to a project that makes a lasting impact on our community. This year the teens worked with the Evergreen Cemetery Benevolent Society, Kids on Bikes, NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), and School in the Woods. The students concluded their Leading Edge experience with a Project Presentation and Graduation, where they presented their projects and their experiences in the program to family, friends, and local leaders.

4 PROJECTS
contributing
250+ HOURS
of service

RESULTS

We are continually making efforts to improve our programming to be impactful for our participants. In addition to surveys for each session day, we also conduct pre-program and post-program surveys to monitor the participants' growth over the course of the program. We saw great growth in the students' understanding of our community, where they could get involved as leaders, and their confidence in their leadership abilities.

One student wrote, "Leading Edge increased the knowledge I have of my community and has equipped me with the skills and confidence to take action". Another student wrote, "Leading Edge helped me become more outgoing and more confident in myself and my abilities." These sentiments were mirrored in many students' comments about the program. Not only did the students recognize their own growth throughout the program, but we had many parents speak to the positive changes they have seen in their students and how impressed they were with the knowledge and skills their children were gaining from the program.

PROGRAM INVESTORS

We would like to thank all those who contributed to the program, financially and through time and energy. Your impact on our youth has been profound and we look forward to working with you in the future. We would especially like to thank this year's financial sponsors:



**Leadership Pikes Peak's mission is
to build a thriving community through leadership and service.**