

Ohio Tourism Leadership Academy

Developing Leaders for Ohio

Providing the education, resources and networks needed to develop travel leaders for the State of Ohio

Ready for the Next Step?

If you have thought about becoming more involved in the State of Ohio's travel industry, or if you want to know how tourism functions at the statewide level, then the Ohio Tourism Leadership Academy provides the training you need to take that next step. This innovative program connects you to peers in the industry who are currently leading the way, introduces you to industry issues and opportunities in such a way that solutions can be envisioned and gives you a basic understanding of the roles and responsibilities of becoming a leader in Ohio. Upon graduation, you will have the networks, know-how and confidence to more effectively serve the industry on regional and state boards as well as to become a more active legislative voice.

Program Details

The Ohio Tourism Leadership Academy builds leaders by fostering knowledge, developing leadership skills, strengthening networks and informing participants about the responsibilities of boardmanship. The program consists of six classes with session locations taking place in the Greater Columbus area. Each session begins at 10 a.m. and concludes at 3p.m.

During the sessions, you will be introduced to critical regional and statewide tourism issues. You will meet and discuss issues with leaders from statewide public, private and non-profit related agencies. Through panel discussions, round tables, presentations, tours and other activities, the Ohio Tourism Leadership Academy will build a stronger Ohio by forging stronger leaders within the travel industry.

Candidate Selection

Participants are selected in an objective process and must be recommended and sponsored by their employers, generally by the chief executive officer. Self-employed persons may sponsor themselves. Sponsorship may also be made by non-profit organizations. Candidates will be sought who have high energy and passion for the tourism industry. They should be articulate, available to commit and able to demonstrate a willingness to learn new skills and put them into action after graduation.

Participation in the sessions represents a significant commitment of time and dedication on the part of those chosen for the program. They will be required to attend all sessions to graduate unless absence is excused by the Ohio Tourism Leadership Academy organizers. Applicants should be aware that there may be more nominees than class size permits. Candidates are selected exclusively on their own merits.



2024 Ohio Tourism Leadership Academy

OTLA is such an important experience that I would recommend time and time again! Hearing from such a wide variety of speakers opened my eyes to all the different facets that make up the travel industry. Every class I would leave with new connections, new resources, and new ideas to bring back to my team. The relationships you make here are just as important as the tools you learn. A few of my fellow classmates quickly became trusted professional peers that I can call for advice and collaborate with on new ideas.

Margaret Price, Ashtabula County Visitors Bureau

Application Deadline

Dec. 13, 2024

Completed applications for the 2025 program must be received by the Ohio Travel Association by Dec. 13, 2024. Applicants will be notified of their selection by Dec. 20, 2024.

Tuition

Tuition for the 2025 program is \$905 for current OTA members and \$980 for non-members. Tuition fees are established to cover the cost of materials, supplementary data, meals, graduation and administration of the program. Non-member rates also include one-year OTA membership.



2025 Schedule

Jan. 8
Leadership and the Economy
Ohio Agricultural Complex, Reynoldsburg

Feb. 5
Advocating for the
Travel Economy
Riffe Building, Columbus

March 12
Partnerships, Consensus
Building and the Arts
Huntington Building, Columbus

April 9
Natural Resources and
Outdoor Recreation
Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, Columbus

May 14
Media and Communications
Licking County

June 11
Historic Preservation and
Heritage, Final Group Projects
Ohio History Connection, Columbus

Oct. 3
Graduation During the 2025
Ohio Conference on Travel
Ashtabula County

Please contact Melinda Huntley, OTA
Executive Director, with any questions at
mhuntley@ohiotravel.org





2025 Ohio Tourism Leadership Academy Application

Contact Information:

Name: _____
Title: _____
Employer: _____ Hire Date: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Phone #: _____ Cell #: _____
Business Email: _____
Emergency Contact and Phone #: _____

Employment Information:

Briefly describe your work responsibilities:

What employment have you held in the last five years other than this current job?

Dates	Employer	Duties
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Education:

Dates	Schools/Colleges Attended	Degree
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Academic or Professional Awards/Honors:

Community Activities and Board(s) Involvement:

Current Affiliations:

Organization	Dates	Office Held
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Have you graduated from a local leadership program? If so, which one?

Briefly state your personal goals for the next five years: (Use separate sheet if necessary)

Why do you want to attend the Ohio Tourism Leadership Academy? (Use separate sheet if necessary)

I am willing to commit my time, talents, and energy to the Ohio Tourism Leadership Academy's Class of 2025. I will conduct myself always in a professional manner, understanding that I am representing my company and the Ohio Travel Association at every event. Signing below indicates my dedication to the program and provides proof of my employer's support if applicable. Signing below also indicates my attendance at sessions. If a session must be missed, advance notice must be given to OTLA coordinators following guidelines discussed at January session.

I also understand payment is due upon submission of application. No refunds after Dec. 31, 2024, as class size is limited. Canceling after class members are selected could take the opportunity away from a colleague. Tuition cannot be transferred to another year. Substitutions are permitted until the beginning of the first session. Payment will be refunded if applicant is not selected for this year's class.

Applicant Signature

Date

Board President or Supervisor Signature

Date

**Please send this signed form to sarah@ohiotravel.org.
We Will Then Send You an Online Invoice
Or
Mail This Application Along with Payment to
Ohio Travel Association / P.O. Box 189/ Pickerington, OH 43147.**