

VA AWWA / VWEA Leadership Academy 2026-2027 Application

Background: The Leadership Academy is a VA AWWA / VWEA initiative developed for professionals of all ages and experience in the water industry. Leadership topics covered in the Academy include moral and ethical leadership, team building, goal setting, working styles, effective communication, and more. The Leadership Academy is organized into a year-long course kicking off at WaterJAM 2026.

Course Overview and Cost: The VA AWWA / VWEA Leadership Academy includes:

- Up to six **in-person** workshops
 - One kickoff event at WaterJAM 2026
 - Up to 4* in-person training sessions at rotating locations across Virginia
 - One final workshop and Graduation at WaterJAM 2027
- Up to 4* **virtual** skills-strengthening sessions (2 hours each)
- **The final agenda for in-person & virtual workshops is still being evaluated – it will either be 6 in-person & 2 virtual OR 5 in-person and 4 virtual.*
- VA AWWA or VWEA Committee Participation
 - Participants are required to join a committee and contribute by planning an event, leading a task, or taking on a committee leadership role.

The program fee is \$825 per participant, covering all workshops (with breakfast, snacks, and lunch), virtual sessions, and WaterJAM 2027 registration. The fee does not include association membership dues, transportation, lodging, or WaterJAM 2026 registration. However, participants may attend the Kickoff at WaterJAM 2026 without registering for the full conference. Accepted applicants will return to the application page to confirm their participation and submit the required fee.

Program Requirements: The following are expected of all participants to guarantee an effective and productive cohort for the entire Academy year:

- Attendance at all workshops is required for graduation. Participants may be permitted one absence from an in-person workshop and one absence from a virtual training session pending advance approval.
- Participant must be an active water professional within the Commonwealth of Virginia, and a current member of either VA AWWA or VWEA.
- A minimum of one year of professional experience within the water industry is required. Applicants with experience in other industries and military are considered after meeting the minimum requirement.
- The ability to travel to and from WaterJAM and all in-person workshops.

Program Benefits: To cultivate an intimate learning and networking environment, the Academy accepts a limited number of participants. The full day and virtual workshops are taught by industry professionals or leadership instructors who provide interactive training for leadership skill development. The Academy is designed to attract a broad range of water professionals to encourage a variety of perspectives.

Leadership Academy – Application

Instructions: Please read all the instructions before completing the application.

Admission into the Leadership Academy is **competitive**. Applicants should take time to highlight how their professional growth and accomplishments will allow them to contribute to the cohort and how the Leadership Academy will contribute to their and their organization's growth. Each applicant will be reviewed solely on the information provided in their application package.

The application period opens **April 1, 2026**. For your application to be considered, VA AWWA / VWEA must receive all complete materials by the application deadline, **June 14, 2026 at 11:59pm**.

A complete application package includes:

- 2-Page Leadership Academy Application.
- Personal Statement.
- Letter of Support from Supervisor or Mentor indicating sponsoring organization will permit attendance at all events including Kickoff, every workshop, and Graduation.
- Up-to-date resume.
- Confirmation of VA AWWA or VWEA Membership or pledge to join either association upon acceptance into the Leadership Academy.
- Signature on Program Statement Agreement.

Everything you need to submit a complete application can be found on <https://vaawwa.org/events/leadershipacademy2026/>.

- Please return to that page now if you would like to download a separate copy of the Letter of Support to send to your employer or mentor.
- Once you have gathered all of your application documents, please return to that page to submit your completed application. Application materials submitted separately will not be reviewed.

1. Applicant Information

Name: _____ Business Phone: _____

Email: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Company: _____ Time with Company: _____

Work Address: _____

Current Position: _____

Are you a member of VA AWWA / VWEA? Yes or No

If Yes, VA AWWA / VWEA Member ID Number: _____

Accepted applicants that are not current members of either association will be required to join one prior to Leadership Academy Kickoff.

Are you currently a member of a VA AWWA, VWEA, or joint committee? Please include the committee's name and any leadership roles held:

If you are not a member of a VA AWWA / VWEA, or joint committee, please review the committee descriptions on the home page of the VWEA and VA AWWA websites and write down three that you might be interested in working with.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

2. Personal Statement

Please include a **separate document** that expands on the following:

Part 1:

- Licenses / Certifications currently held. Plans for and/or ongoing activities to obtain Licenses or Certifications.
- Any other Leadership Trainings or Seminars you have attended.
- Community involvement activities indicating the organization name, dates of participation and any leadership roles held.
- Current career goals.

Part 2 (500 Word Limit):

- Describe why you would like to be a part of the Leadership Academy.
- Elaborate on what you hope to bring to, and gain from, participating in the program.
- Give an example of a leader you admire and your reasons why.
- Any other pertinent information you consider helpful in supporting your application.

3. Letter of Support

Each applicant must submit one (1) Letter of Support completed by the applicant's work supervisor or a mentor from the applicant's current employer. Applications may only be reviewed once they are complete, including the Letter of Support.

4. Program Statement Agreement

The Leadership Academy has a competitive application process. Classes are designed to have a balance of professionals from different fields within the water industry. Class sizes are limited to provide an enriched, focused experience for attendees. By signing or typing your name below, you are certifying that you have read and understood this application and the requirements of the program:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

