



LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Youth Environmental Leadership Program

Applications are accepted on a rolling admission process!

Thank you for applying to participate in the James River Association's James River Leadership Academy (JRLA)! As a 2020 - 2021 JRLA candidate, you have a chance to take on an exciting year-long challenge where you will develop leadership skills and knowledge that will guide you through higher education and your future career. JRLA provides a skill building and training opportunity for students who are passionate and committed to protecting our environment to take action on behalf of the James River and the natural world. You will commit to addressing a water-related issue in your community, and work with a professional mentor to design and implement a Capstone Project by Spring 2021.

By completing and submitting this application, you are indicating that you are committed for the entirety of each JRLA Leadership Session:

Session One: 4 days in June 2020 (TBA)

Session Two: 1 weekend in November 2020 (TBA)

Session Three: January 30th, 2021

Session Four: May 1st, 2021

Session locations will be announced along with acceptance letter.

Please print or type responses legibly.

First and Last Name:	Male or Female:	T-Shirt Size:
Home Address:	School Name:	
Email Address:	Your Grade This School Year:	
Phone Number:	Teacher Contact (Same as Recommendation):	

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Application

A. Essay

Write an essay (500 words minimum) describing what motivates you to participate in JRLA for 2020-2021? Please describe your interest in the James River and the environment. What excites you most about the JRLA? How will completing the JRLA program contribute to your personal, academic, or career goals? Why should you be chosen to participate in the JRLA?

B. Short Answers (1 paragraph minimum for each question)

1. What do you think are some of the most important qualities for someone to excel in the JRLA? Which of these qualities could you bring to this unique program? Describe specifically how your motivation to be involved will positively impact other JRLA students as a team.
2. Some JRLA Leadership Sessions will involve challenging activities, including remaining open-minded during discussions, thinking critically, problem solving, and learning skills previously unknown to you. Describe the biggest challenge you have faced in the past year, how you were able to manage the situation, and the outcome. Describe what you learned from this experience.
3. Describe the current or past long-term commitments you have made, if any (sports teams, local organizations, service groups, etc.) How will you make sure that you maintain your commitment to the JRLA in addition to your other responsibilities?
4. JRLA will require strong teamwork to address environmental issues and make a positive impact through community-based action projects. Share your most memorable volunteer experience? Describe a time when you worked with others to complete a task and how your role and efforts contributed to its success.
5. JRLA will occasionally require physical activity in a wilderness setting, including paddling, camping, hiking, and moving equipment. Instruction for these activities will be provided. Please briefly describe any physical or medical conditions that may limit you from completing these tasks safely (for example: sports injury, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.)

C. Teacher Recommendation and Personal Recommendation

Please submit two positive letters of recommendation from one of your current teachers and one unrelated adult you know personally. Please share all of the JRLA information with these adults, and attach his/her **recommendation and signature** to your application. Should he/she have any questions regarding JRLA or their recommendation, contact Charles Johnson by email at cjohnson@thejamesriver.org.

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Application Continued...

D. Parent or Guardian Signature

I acknowledge that my student has applied to participate in JRLA, a year-long leadership development program. I understand that the goal of JRLA is to build skills and understanding to make a positive impact on our environment and motivate our future leaders.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print):	Parent/Guardian Signature:
Phone Number:	Email Address:

Application Check List:

Use this check list to ensure that your application includes all of the following materials. Applications will not be considered complete until all materials are received. Submission of your application may be followed up with a Skype or telephone interview once it has been processed.

- ☐ Application Essay
- ☐ Application Short Answers
- ☐ Teacher and Personal Recommendations
- ☐ Parent or Guardian Signature

Submit applications in WORD or PDF document format by email with the subject line "JRLA Application (Your Name)" to Charles Johnson at cjohnson@thejamesriver.org (pictures of application pages will not be accepted)

OR

***Submit applications by mail to:
James River Association
Attn: Charles Johnson
211 Rocketts Way, Suite 200
Richmond, VA 23231***