



2027 SESSION DATES AND DESCRIPTIONS



Attendance is mandatory. Unexpected absences will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. If you know of multiple scheduling conflicts at this time, we ask you to consider applying next year.



Unless specific times are noted below, sessions should be considered full days. Start and end times will vary, but plan for an 8 am – 5 pm schedule.



County, State, and Regionalism sessions are shared with chamber leadership programs from Gardner, Leawood, NEJC, Olathe, Overland Park, Spring Hill, and Shawnee.



Participants must attend a Lenexa City Council meeting and a Planning Commission meeting. Meeting dates will be provided.

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WELCOME SESSION

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27
3 PM – 5 PM

The welcome session provides the opportunity to meet and greet your cohort with an exercise to introduce yourself before our first session.

STRENGTHSFINDER: YOUR TOP 5

THURSDAY, JAN. 28
8:30 AM – 5 PM

Prior to the session, you will take the StrengthsFinder Assessment to discover your Top 5 Strengths. The session is a full day with Dr. Sondra Cave, founder and director of Strengths and Leadership Consulting, and a Strengths Advisor at Gallup Organization. Dr. Cave will lead us through exercises to learn more about our Top 5 and give us basic strategies to apply them in all areas of life.

TOUR OF JOHNSON COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL SUPPORTS

FRI, FEB. 12
9 AM – 11 AM

This mini session is a tour of Johnson County Developmental Supports, the agency of the Johnson County government that facilitates career and personal development for residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We will tour the facility, meet clients, and the staff representing various agency programs.

STATE OF THE CITY/GOVERNING BODY

TUESDAY, FEB. 16
8:30 AM – 4 PM

Attend the State of the City Address and luncheon, then meet with Mayor Julie Sayers and Lenexa City Council members to learn what it is like to campaign and serve as a local elected official.

STATE OF THE STATE

THURSDAY, MARCH 2
7 AM – 5 PM

We travel to Topeka by motorcoach to hear from KS legislators and other key figures in our state government. Our class will meet with Chamber President/CEO Ashley Sherard, who, with 30 years of experience in legislative affairs, will take us to specific spots around the Capitol building for behind-the-scenes insights. This is a shared session.

Lenexa residents are served by three school districts, De Soto, Olathe, and Shawnee Mission. Johnson County Community College is a major regional educational, cultural, and economic hub. We will focus on programs offered to K-12, higher ed, and continuing ed students.

STATE OF THE COUNTY

TUESDAY, APRIL 6
8 AM – 4 PM

At this shared session we hear from elected officials and county departments to learn about the people, programs, and processes that keep the county running. This is a shared session.

REGIONALISM

TUESDAY, APRIL 20
8 AM – 4 PM

This session includes KC Metro area organizations and topics that affect economic development, politics, business, and culture on both sides of the state line. This is a shared session.

TEAMBUILDING

THURSDAY, MAY 6
9 AM – 4 PM

Participate in high and low course elements that challenge us to solve problems as individuals and as a group. We will spend the day outdoors at TimberRidge Adventure Center, a facility run by Johnson County Parks and Recreation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THURSDAY, MAY 20
8 AM – 4 PM

Commercial development fuels the economy, bringing new business to Lenexa. The City of Lenexa and the Lenexa Chamber assist companies through the process and are responsible for helping retain and facilitate growth for existing businesses. We will tour the area to learn about past, current, and future projects and take part in a small group activity to experience aspects of the development process.

SAFETY AND QUALITY OF LIFE

THURSDAY, JUNE 3
8 AM – 4 PM

Get up close to the work of first responders in Lenexa – our fire and police departments. Participate in demonstrations and get a look at the programs and tools used to keep the community safe. This session also includes overviews of the Parks and Recreation Department, Municipal Services and the nationally recognized Rain to Recreation program.

RECOGNITION CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, JUNE 11
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

An event for the class, their guests and program alumni to celebrate completion of the program.