

Your Portal to Meaningful Community Involvement

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CHAMBER RESORT ASSOCIATION

In 1998, Leadership Steamboat was recognized in John T. Boal's *Be a Global Force of One in Your Hometown* as one of "202 Common Sense, Human & Portable Ways to Restore Our Communities, Our Schools & Ourselves." This book looked at programs nationally and identified the Steamboat Springs program as being "an innovative nine-month community leadership program ... (that) has helped propel Steamboat Springs to be named as the No. 2 rated small town in The 100 Best Small Towns in America."

Started in 1992, Leadership Steamboat is one of the longest running programs of its type in Colorado. It is a collaborative effort between the Steamboat Springs Chamber Resort Association and Colorado Mountain College and owes a debt of gratitude to the late Bill Hill, its first program facilitator. In the early years, the program was primarily classroom instruction with some added community interaction. With feedback from each class, the program has evolved into more community based education with hands-on experiential learning and involvement.

Seek first to understand

In many ways, Leadership Steamboat strives to follow one of the habits listed in Stephen Covey's well-read "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People," which says "Seek first to understand, then to be understood." As Covey notes, "Before the problems come up, before you try to evaluate and prescribe, before you try to present your own ideas — seek to understand. It's a powerful habit of effective interdependence."

Leadership Steamboat course outline

- Sept. 17 and 18: Orientation retreat (half day Thursday, all day Friday)
- Oct. 9: Community issues
- Nov. 6: Community field trip — agriculture and land conservation/individual and group project planning
- Dec. 4: Professional development — getting things done — Yampa Valley style (open to the public)
- Jan. 8: Community field trip — mining/group project planning
- Jan. 22: Yampa Valley businesses
- Feb. 12: Political action (city and county)
- March 5: Community infrastructure
- March 26: Public service forum
- April 16: Regional perspective field trip
- May 19 and 20: Economic summit 2010 (tentative dates)
- June 4: Final retreat
- June 23: Graduation

Program facts

Cost: \$425 (Often an employer will pay \$350 and the employee will pay \$75). Limited Bill Hill Memorial Scholarship funds available

Application deadline: Sept. 1
Available online at www.steamboat-chamber.com
Call Sandy Evans Hall at 875-7007 or e-mail sevans@steamboat-chamber.com

Often participants come to the Leadership Steamboat opening retreat with very clear ideas about what should be done to make Steamboat Springs a better place to be. The solutions seem obvious and simple. However, through the next nine months, the complexity and ambiguity of the issues becomes apparent. Solutions are not simple, or they would have been done. The class has the opportunity to meet community leaders from the nonprofit, private and public sectors and see the passion and commitment these individuals have and truly understand the different perspectives.

"Every year is unique, the



SCOTT FORD/COURTESY

Participants of the 2009-10 Leadership Steamboat program have fun determining the direction their class will take during a nine-month journey. The program is a collaborative effort between the Steamboat Springs Chamber Resort Association and Colorado Mountain College

experience is customized to the group dynamics of the class," noted co-facilitator, Sandy Evans Hall, executive vice president of the Chamber. "As facilitators, we set out a direction, but the path is defined by the individuals that choose to participate. The class has input on the panels of presenters, the selection of topics, their individual project and the group project each year."

New 'City Tour' and reading

Hall and co-facilitators Grant Fenton, from Steamboat Investments and a former class member, and Randy Rudasics, the manager at the Small Business Resource Center at Colorado Mountain College and another former class member, have added a couple of new elements to the program. One is a required reading of "Leadership is an Art," by Herman Miller Corp.'s former CEO, Max De

Pree. The other is a City Tour for the regional perspective day where community leaders will join the class on a visit to another similar community in Colorado to see how that community is tackling various issues that we share.

The City Tour will provide two avenues for learning for the class. The first is the regional perspective that one gets from getting outside his or her "box." Seeing a similar problem addressed in a different way opens the mind to new possibilities. The second opportunity for the class is an opportunity to get to know the other community members on the bus and better understand their thoughts on community issues. "We're very excited about this new opportunity for the class, and look forward to making it an annual event," Fenton said.

The 2009-10 class also is the

first for required reading material. "We chose 'Leadership is an Art' because it is an easy book to read yet is so filled with profound wisdom and human examples that is very engaging. A group discussion of the basic premises of De Pree's book is a perfect jumping-off point for the year," Rudasics said. As De Pree writes in the preface, "Community is where it happens. In communities we are all given opportunities and a chance to make the most of them. Only in communities can we set meaningful goals and measure our performance. Only in communities do we grow and prosper as persons and reach our potential. Only in communities do we respect and honor and thank the people who contribute to our interdependent lives."

And discovering community is what Leadership Steamboat is all about.



Upcoming Events

August 20-23 1st Annual All Arts Festival

Come experience this high-class celebration of the arts that entertains and inspires through featured performances by the Avett Brothers, George Winston and the Steamboat Springs Orchestra conducted by Ernest Richardson. The fine art festival along the Yampa will be the heart of the event and will showcase award-winning local and regional visual artists. Experiential and educational workshops will be available all weekend and open to all levels.

For a complete schedule and to purchase tickets, please visit www.steamboatallartsfestival.com.

September 5-6 Wild West Air Fest

Labor Day Weekend in Steamboat is packed with the entertainment in the air, on the mountain and all over town! It's a Labor Day celebration for the whole family. The Wild West Airfest features remote controlled aircraft shows, vintage and warbird aircraft displays, classic cars, hang gliders, para-gliders, kids' activities and much more! The Steamboat Stockdog Challenge is back! If you love dogs, you won't want to miss these amazing

animals herding sheep in this great competition on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Plus our semi-annual downtown sidewalk sale is a Steamboat tradition that you don't want to miss! The Rocky Mountain Bull Bash on Sunday tests cowboys' skills on top-ranked bulls with a big cash prize for the winner. Visit www.steamboat-chamber.com for more information.

September 10 Sustainable Business Program Networking Luncheon

Sustainable Business program members gather to discuss successes and share ideas about sustainability at this luncheon-style event.

11:30 a.m. at Yampa River Botanic Park
\$5 for members and \$15 for guests
RSVP at steamboat-chamber.com



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Colorado Mountain College

**2009 Application Deadline
is September 7.**

Call 875-7007 for more information.