



8817 East Mission Avenue, Suite 201  
Spokane Valley, Washington 99212  
509-926-9113 | [leaders@agforestry.org](mailto:leaders@agforestry.org) | [www.AgForestry.org](http://www.AgForestry.org)

Dear Candidate:

We are excited that you are interested in the AgForestry Leadership Program. We look forward to receiving your application for the upcoming Leadership Class! **Applications may be submitted from March 15, 2019 – April 30, 2019.** AgForestry Staff are here to help with any questions you may have.

### **APPLICATION INFORMATION**

Your application consists of five parts. Detailed instructions for completing the application are included in this packet. Please be assured that your application, references and all materials are confidential. The first three steps are to be completed online, please contact the office if other accommodations need to be made. The last two items are to be emailed to [leaders@agforestry.org](mailto:leaders@agforestry.org) or mailed to the office.

1. **APPLICATION** – Complete in full, including three essay questions. The essay questions are listed in the 'Essay Portion' paragraph below.
2. **EMPLOYER RELEASE** – Required for those candidates who are not self-employed.
3. **REFERENCES** – Four references are required from each candidate. These may be personal, spouse or significant other, business, or community contacts. You are responsible for sending each of your references the link to the AgForestry reference form. We will notify you when your reference forms are received.
4. **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)** – This form must be signed and submitted to the office via mail or email.
5. **RESUME** – Submit a current resume to the office, along with your signed MOU.

### **ESSAY PORTION OF APPLICATION**

The essay questions are listed below. Each essay response is limited to 1000 characters.

1. Tell us about yourself and why you want to participate in AgForestry.
2. Tell us who you respect as a leader and why.
3. Share your ties to, involvement in or passion for agriculture, forestry or natural resources.

### **SELECTION PROCESS**

All applicants will have an in-person interview with a Selection Committee in your area. **Regional Interviews will take place on June 5, 2019.** Candidates will be notified of your interview location and time. The selection process is highly competitive. A maximum of 24 participants are carefully chosen for each class. Candidates not selected for the program are invited to reapply.

Candidates are notified of the selection results in early July. The first seminar is scheduled for October 16-18, 2019 at Washington State University in Pullman.

### **PROGRAM INFORMATION**

Each Leadership Class is 18 months, with a total of 58 days of required time and attendance - **your commitment to the program includes attendance at all seminars.** There are 11 seminars held throughout Washington State. There are two travel seminars: one week in Washington, D.C., and two weeks in a foreign country.

Participation fees are \$6,000 for the entire program (\$3,000 per program year.) Payment plans are available. The hard cost of the Program is \$26,000, the value is much greater. Generous Giving Partners make it possible for our class members to experience the AgForestry Leadership Program.

Please feel free to contact the office at (509) 926-9113 if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

**Sheryl McGrath**  
President



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**The AgForestry Leadership Program** was established to cultivate leaders in agriculture, forestry and natural resources who communicate, collaborate, inspire and serve, while allowing them to continue in their occupations. Each Leadership Class is selected by a volunteer committee representing leaders in natural resources and approved by the Foundation's Board of Directors.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- Must have lived or worked in Washington for at least one year.
- Have approval from their employer to invest the required time to attend all seminars. Those who are self-employed must be able to be away from their businesses for that time.
- Remain employed in agriculture, forestry or any related natural resource service or industry for the duration of the class.
- Embrace AgForestry Leadership's Diversity and Inclusion Statement.

**PURPOSE OF SELECTION PROCESS**

To select the highest quality candidates from Washington agriculture, forestry, fisheries, natural resource related industries and rural communities who have the potential to provide exceptional leadership.

Industry definitions according to the Foundation:

- Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries are broadly defined to include producers (farmer, forester and fisher), processor/shippers, and marketing/salespeople. It also includes professionals from education, law, finance, insurance, government and non-government agencies whose work is dedicated to serving the natural resources sector.
- Individuals from other fields such as the environment, media, research, labor, and public relations who demonstrate strong connections to the natural resource industries are also included. An important qualification is the applicant's current and future commitment to Washington agriculture, forestry, fisheries, natural resources and rural communities.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXPECTS EACH PARTICIPANT IN THE AGFORESTRY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM TO FULFILL THE FOLLOWING FOUR COMMITMENTS:**

- To **attend all** resident and travel seminars
- To **assume** leadership responsibility
- To **participate** in post-graduate leadership activities
- To **support** the AgForestry Leadership Program after graduation

**PLEASE READ AND RETAIN FOR YOUR RECORDS**