



## What is the AgForestry Leadership Program?

Recognized as the premier leadership development program in Washington State, AgForestry offers hands-on learning experiences for people working in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and other natural resource based businesses. Over 18 months, 11 multi-day, in-state seminars are presented on topics related to communications, social services, government, industry, crime and corrections, and transportation. Participants also spend one week in Washington D.C. and up to two weeks in a selected foreign country.

The AgForestry Leadership Program features more than 250 expert speakers, a vast network of industry partners and over a thousand program participants. Many serve in leadership positions throughout the state, nationally and internationally.

## Why is it important?

Few things touch our lives more in Washington State than our agriculture, forestry and natural resource industries. They provide successful livelihoods, quality of life for millions and collectively make the largest economic impact in the state.

Strong leadership is needed now more than ever in natural resources with evolving technology, challenges in the global economy and regulatory changes.

## Who participates in AgForestry?

Leadership classes are diverse by industry, political beliefs, demographics and other factors. Candidates should be on an established leadership path in their chosen career. Participants include farmers, livestock producers, foresters, agency personnel, tribal members and others who serve the natural resource sectors such as persons employed in financial and insurance services, crop protection, and non-profit organizations.



## What will I gain from AgForestry?

- Enhance communication skills, including public speaking and meeting facilitation.
- Be equipped with tools for crafting and advancing public policy.
- Have the confidence to take on leadership roles.
- Be able to advocate for natural resources.
- Develop critical-thinking skills.
- Work to positively impact lives and communities in Washington State and the world.
- Understand how to engage people with different values, perspectives and personalities.
- Explore legislative, regulatory, economic and social issues that impact the natural resource industries.
- Create awareness and build credibility with the public.
- Appreciate the value of relationships built on trust and mutual respect.
- Learn to inspire others through storytelling, emotion and logic.
- Grow your professional and personal network.

## How to Apply

Applications are accepted toward the beginning of each calendar year. The process consists of an online application, self evaluation and essay questions. Each candidate is also required to obtain four references and assurance from their employer that they are able to fully commit to the time required to complete the AgForestry Leadership Program.

Each candidate is interviewed by a volunteer committee of AgForestry alumni and community members. Up to 24 candidates may be chosen. The selection committee's decisions are confirmed by the AgForestry Board of Directors.

Visit [agforestry.org/candidates](http://agforestry.org/candidates) to apply. You can also nominate someone who you think would be a good fit for the program, or nominate yourself. Nominees will receive additional information about AgForestry and the application process.

## Our History

The Agriculture and Forestry Education Foundation was established in 1977 to cultivate leaders who would advocate for management and public policy decisions that improve Washington State's natural resource industries and communities. The AgForestry Leadership Program brings together resource managers and stakeholders from the public and private sectors to broaden knowledge and refine the skills necessary to provide leadership in a challenging environment.

*"Port Blakely has been supporting and sending employees through the AgForestry Leadership Program for over 20 years. Our company and industry need forward-thinking, solutions-oriented leaders to make sure we can effectively address issues that affect not only us, but our local and global communities. We have benefitted from AgForestry first-hand and know the program is world class in developing leaders in natural resources."*

- Court Stanley, President, Port Blakely, Class 21

## Seminar Schedule

**Leadership, Communication and Vision - October:** Start developing skills for effective leadership and an understanding of personal leadership styles.

**Group Dynamics and Public Speaking - November:** Learn how communication impacts group dynamics, and how to create a successful group that works together.

**Working with the Media - December:** Examine the influence of the media and identify your message.

**Social Issues - January:** Think critically about addressing social issues and the role of effective leadership in those dialogues.

**State Government - Early February:** Explore leadership skills necessary for Public Policy development on a state level.

**National Government - Late February/Early March (1 week):** Become knowledgeable about agencies and organizations that affect natural resource industries and communities.

**Forestry Issues - May:** Learn about the significance of timberland management and gain insight into the scope and complexity of the forest industry.

**Agriculture Issues - September:** Explore the importance of agriculture and the complex and ever-changing dynamics that shape its future.

**Columbia River System - October:** Learn how the Columbia River system is managed among its competing uses.

**Crime and Corrections - November:** Gain a first-hand perspective of life within a prison through a tour of the Washington State Penitentiary, and conversations with correctional officers.

**Transportation - December:** Examine transportation issues, including the Port of Seattle's role in transportation and trade.

**International Study Seminar - January/February (2 weeks):** Learn about agricultural production and natural resource management. Discover culture and history through site visits, speakers, and interactions.

**Public Policy Presentations and Graduation - April/May:** Present Public Policy Projects and reflect on the AgForestry experience while you celebrate your accomplishments.



**Our mission is to cultivate leaders in agriculture, forestry and natural resources who communicate, collaborate, inspire and serve.**

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**Our vision is to positively impact and enrich lives and communities in Washington State, and throughout the world, with leading edge solutions for challenges faced by agriculture, forestry and natural resources.**

### A few of our more than 1,000 graduates

U.S. Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen, Class 12

U.S. Congressman Daniel Newhouse, Class 4

State Senator Linda Evans Parlette, 12th District, Class 2

State Senator Mark Schoesler, 9th District, Class 10

State Representative Ed Orcutt, 18th District, Class 17

State Representative Joe Schmick, 9th District, Class 14

Heather Hansen, Executive Director, Washington Friends of Farms & Forests, Class 17

Court Stanley, President, Port Blakely, Class 21

Lindsey Williams, Director, Agriculture and Natural Resource Center of Excellence, Class 40

Karl Vanevenhoven, COO, Yakima Chief Hops, Class 31

Lars Leland, Executive Director, Port of Mattawa, Class 37

Tammie Perreault, Owner, Two Cats Timber, Class 38

AgForestry graduates also serve on city and county Economic Development Councils, School Boards, College and University Advisory Councils and countless entities that advocate for natural resources in their communities.