



“A tree has roots in the soil yet reaches to the sky. It tells us that in order to aspire, we need to be grounded and that no matter how high we go, it is from our roots that we draw sustenance.”

– Wangari Maathai

Ozark Mountain Legacy Young Leaders Institute is a program of Ozark Mountain Legacy, a locally-based nonprofit that works to amplify our area as a place of Hope and Hospitality for residents and visitors by helping to define, communicate, celebrate and champion the foundational values and character of this region.

The programs we create and support provide inspiration and motivation for others to put these values into action, serving others with love.



OzarkMountainLegacy.org

OZARK MOUNTAIN LEGACY YOUNG LEADERS INSTITUTE



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Equipping Young Leaders to Shape the Culture
and Impact the Future of Ozark Mountain Country

Ozark Mountain Legacy Young Leaders Institute (OMLYLI) is a curated experience for outstanding students from 12 different high schools throughout the region. **OMLYLI** is designed to improve skills, increase knowledge, and enhance the impact of area youth through principled leadership and civic involvement.

The purpose of **OMLYLI** is to identify, empower, and introduce young leaders to the legacy culture and character of this region, so they are able to pass on the gift of stewardship to future generations.

The program includes five, all-day sessions that focus on faith, family, flag, friends and the future. Classes are led by a variety of community leaders and mentors from Different businesses and organizations who share real World experience, in sync with a curriculum that inspires and informs today's youth.



All participants are high school juniors in Stone or Taney county who have demonstrated a desire to be active in school and community activities.

School administrators carefully consider each student's proven character and leadership potential when inviting them to participate.

Students who are selected, must commit to attending all five

sessions, participate in various class initiatives, and attend the annual Ozark Mountain Prayer Breakfast.

The namesake local organization, **Ozark Mountain Legacy** has a mission to champion the core values of family, faith, friends, flag and future.

To register please visit:
OzarkMountainLegacy.org



THE FUTURE IS NOW. CULTIVATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS TODAY.



Ozark Mountain Legacy Young Leaders Institute is held annually at the start of each calendar year. Five different day sessions explore the traditional core values and strong character that have shaped our region, while cultivating leadership skills stem from clear vision and purpose. At the conclusion of these five sessions,

participants in the program are invited to be guests at the annual **Ozark Mountain Prayer Breakfast** where they will be recognized by the event presenters and introduced to hundreds of community members in attendance.

SESSION 1: THURSDAY, JAN. 22, 2026

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM



FAITH

The first session focuses on developing character, serving others, and leading with integrity, blending practical leadership skills with spiritual growth. Students connect their leadership journey to their personal faith walk.

- Discover how shared values unify and strengthen a community.
- Learn our area's historical roots have been guided by traditional Judeo-Christian values.
- Explore the servant leadership model that prioritizes humility and the needs of others, rather than power or control.

SESSION 2: THURSDAY, FEB. 26, 2026

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM



FAMILY

Healthy family dynamics provide the first lessons in leadership. Students will learn how self-awareness, communication, and decision-making influence these important, life-long relationships.

- Understand how servant leadership can shape families and other relationships throughout life.
- Experience local attractions and organizations that prioritize families and learn how they promote family values.
- Learn the foundations of healthy family, friend, and future relationships.

SESSION 3: THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM



FLAG

Built upon traditional American values, this session explores how patriotic leadership serves the public good and includes active participation in government that is “for the people and by the people.”

- Meet and hear inspiring stories from U.S. Veterans and active-duty military.
- Interact with first responders who serve and protect our communities, including sheriff, police, judicial, and fire department representatives.
- Talk with local elected officials and administrators to learn how leadership skills influence our government.

SESSION 4: THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM



FUTURE

Youthful ideas and energy make a positive difference in our community and beyond. This forward-looking session encourages hope, inspires proactive positive change, and provides a framework for both.

- Discover how self-awareness is essential to support and lead effectively.
- Uncover the impact of the entrepreneurial spirit that has made our area exceptional.
- Explore various career path using your gifts and skills.
- Gather tips on planning with a mindset of continuous learning and resilience.

SESSION 5: THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM



FRIENDS

This session focuses on developing character, serving others, and leading with integrity to blend practical leadership skills with servant leadership growth. This session will help students connect their leadership to their personal life's purpose journey.

- Explore service organizations in our community that take action to meet real needs and uplift others.
- Experience the value and intentionality of our area's unrivaled hospitality.
- Learn more about volunteer opportunities in our community and participate in a community service project.



25TH ANNUAL OZARK MOUNTAIN PRAYER BREAKFAST

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

6:00 AM – 10:00 AM

BRANSON CONVENTION CENTER

Our community has celebrated the National Day of Prayer with one of the largest events in the country for the last 24 years. This tradition of hope and prayer will welcome guest speaker MLB Coach Alan Cockrell with his message of faith, discipline, and passion. **Ozark Mountain Legacy Young Leaders Institute** graduates will be honored during the program. Admission to the event is complimentary for **Young Leaders Institute** participants. Additional family and friends can attend with ticket purchase.

MORE TO KNOW

- Thanks to our generous sponsors, this program is provided free-of-charge to all high school students selected to participate.
- All five regular sessions are held at College of the Ozarks in the Plaster Auditorium.
- Transportation to and from all sessions is the participants' responsibility.
- Lunch and snacks will be provided each day.
- Session leaders, content, locations and dates are subject to change.
- Additional follow-up meetings may be necessary to fulfill some identified initiatives.
- If you have questions, please contact Sue Head at 417-690-2241 or shead@cofo.edu.
- Register at OzarkMountainLegacy.org/YLI

