

### **Leadership Blair County Youth**

The Blair County Chamber’s Leadership Blair County Youth (LBCY) program provides the opportunity for high school sophomores to develop their leadership skills, self-confidence, and public speaking skills while learning more about Blair County and ways to make a difference in their communities.

Established in 2004, LBCY is modeled after the well-established Leadership Blair County Adult program and is led by a committee comprised of graduates of that program. Students who participate are from Blair County’s seven public school districts and Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School. They are chosen through an application process in the spring of their freshman year. Class size is limited to twenty-four participants. Each class begins with an overnight retreat and continues with monthly sessions throughout a nine-month period. The program concludes with a graduation ceremony.



The curriculum is based on the S.E.R.V.E. model of leadership. Each session focuses on various topics that affect teens in today’s society. Another important component of the curriculum is the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens model. The curriculum continues to evolve as different issues become more prevalent within our communities.



Students participating in LBCY retreat

Since its inception, there has never been any cost to the student or the school districts to participate in this program. The program is funded through the generosity of the Blair County Chamber Foundation. Funding is made possible through continued sponsorships and grant monies.

#### Feedback from Participants and Parents

“LBC Youth has made an impact on my life! Just a few improvements among the many that I’ve noticed in myself include my professional standards. There is no doubt in my mind that those have improved with the help of the multiple techniques we learned throughout the sessions.”

Marcus Osmolinski  
Altoona Area High School  
Class of 2018

“My son, Jacob, is a young man who is somewhat introverted and quite. While his personality remains reserved, this experience has helped him communicate easier with others, becoming more self-confident in the way he carries himself and communicate with others. He has definitely matured immensely during this past year. Thank you for the difference you are making in the lives of today’s local youth.”

LeeAnn Price