

Leading Yourself, Leading Others,
Leading AAFCS!
The AAFCS Leadership Academy



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) about the AAFCS Leadership Academy

How much time should I allow prior to the Academy in June for preparation and interaction with Academy Organizers?

The Academy uses one book (Kouzes, J. & Posner, B., *The Leadership Challenge-How to make extraordinary things happen in organizations*) for its foundation and two inventories - *Strengths Finder 2.0* and *Emotional Intelligence 2.0*, (which are provided to participants). Participants are asked to take the two inventories and read the first part of the book prior to the June in-person academy.

Participants will be involved in 2-3 Pre-Academy zooms, approximately one per month beginning in April to begin the process of learning and interacting to meet the goals of the Academy.

Participants are asked to interact with their affiliate leaders prior to the in-person Academy to identify the needs of the affiliate which will be used to develop an affiliate project to be completed following the academy.

What is my commitment following the in-person Academy in June?

There are two major commitments following the in-person academy in June that participants are required to be involved in:

1. Mentor Relationship: Participants will interact (virtually) with their matched mentors approximately once a month beginning in June after the Academy and up to the following June to share and learn from each other. Mentor/mentee pairs will meet at a designated time during the Annual Conference to develop goals and communication strategies for the year to come.
2. Affiliate and AAFCS Academy Projects: Participants will be involved as individuals and in small groups in selecting a topic/issue that needs addressing that can make a difference to the association and completing a project on the Affiliate and National (AAFCS) level using the identified theme/topic.
 - a. For the Affiliate project, each participant will interact with her/his affiliate leader prior to the June Academy to identify key needs of the affiliate. The participant will bring these ideas to the June Academy and compare what has been identified with other participants to find commonalities and decide how to proceed, developing plans during the June Academy and completing the project during the year following the academy. Participants can work in small groups where commonalities are determined or individually, working closely with identified affiliate leaders.

- b. For the National (AAFCS) Project, participants will work in small groups during the June Academy, identifying a project with a similar theme as that of their identified Affiliate Project that would benefit AAFCS, developing plans during the June Academy and completing the project during the year following the academy.

Examples of Past Affiliate Projects:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Membership Recruitment | • Work with local university/college to create an FCS major |
| • Increase/retain members | • Work with College/university to promote AAFCS |
| • Increasing participation in Affiliate Annual Conferences | • Increasing student participation in Affiliate Annual Conferences |
| • Rebranding, Rethinking Affiliate members' needs | • Promote FCS as a career on a national level |
| • Affiliate members' needs assessment | • Promote "Say Yes to FCS" |
| • Marketing/Media/Newsletter | • Promote FCS "Dining In" Day to affiliate members, students, and parents |
| • Mentor/Mentee program presentation at State Conference | • Leadership Academy promotion |
| • Mentorship program for educators and teacher educators | • Social media family mealtime initiative |
| • Professional Development supporting teacher educators, encouraging membership to AAFCS | • Improving affiliate's web presence |

Examples of AAFCS Academy Projects:

- Developing Op-Ed/Public Service Announcement
- FACS Day – Dine In promotion
- Membership Recruitment Project – Membership Tool Kit
- New Member Orientation at AAFCS Conference
- Identifying FCS research topics/publications that need to be listed by subject/themes for resources

How much will it cost me to be a part of the Academy?

Registration Cost for the Academy - approximately \$200

Registration Cost for the AAFCS Annual Conference - Academy participants receive a discount on the cost of registration. Academy participants are required to register and participate in the AAFCS Annual Conference.

Hotel expenses for Academy and Annual Conference - As part of the Academy, participants are required to arrive onsite two days prior to the AAFCS Annual Conference, to participate in the Academy and stay for the entire Annual Conference. Participants may ask their affiliate to help with this and other expenses.

Transportation – Participants must provide transportation to and from Academy and Annual Conference location.

Meals – Participants are responsible for meals not covered during the Annual Conference; most meals during the 2-day Academy are covered in the Academy registration cost.

NOTE: It is recommended that you contact your state affiliate to ask for monetary assistance in the above costs. Many affiliates offer partial or complete assistance, including sharing hotel rooms, paying for registrations, etc.

Do I get to select my own mentor for the academy and year to follow?

A pool of mentors is selected to be part of the mentor/mentee process. Participants (mentees) are given the opportunity to rank their choices from among the pool based on their needs and what the mentors have to offer (experience, practice setting....). A match is made by the planning team based on this information.

Where can I find my affiliate leader information?

The affiliate leaders are usually listed on the affiliate's web site (Google to find your affiliate association Example: GAFCS.org is Georgia Association of Family and Consumer Sciences) and most can also be found at: <https://aafcs.org/about/groups/affiliates>

What are affiliates' responsibilities/expectations?

1. Since the AAFCS Leadership Academy's purpose is to train future affiliate and national (AAFCS) leaders, affiliates will expect participants when becoming Academy Alumni to take on roles within the affiliate suited to their desires and abilities. Academy participants should explore their affiliates governance structure, possible leadership roles and how they feel they can best be involved in the affiliate to enhance the organization.
2. The affiliate leaders should interact with each participant to discover the needs of the affiliate in order to develop the affiliate project the fits the need of the specific affiliate.
3. The affiliate should support the efforts of the participant in selected affiliate project during the year after the academy when the project is being implemented.
4. Many affiliates support the participant financially by paying for a portion of their expenses for participating in the Academy and/or AAFCS Annual meeting. They may help with registration costs, travel, hotel... The participant should request this assistance from the affiliate board/leaders when making decisions about applying for the Academy.