

LEADERSHIP

STARK COUNTY

Leadership Stark County develops a community of engaged leaders who are committed to making a positive impact on our region.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) is a leadership development program for high school students (grades 10-12).

YLA represents every school in Stark County – two students are nominated per school. During the course of the program, students will learn and use their personal strengths through the **GallupStrengths Assessment**, become more engaged in school and their community, be aware of our region's assets and issues, and become more self-aware, self-accepting, and confident.

Program days vary depending upon grade. Each program day is 8am-1:30pm.

FOUNDATIONS OF LEADERSHIP

Foundations of Leadership is a six-session, two-hour program for young professionals designed to build essential **soft skills**.

Participants gain **confidence in public speaking, networking, professional presence, and workplace etiquette**, while learning practical tools to succeed in their careers.

This cohort-based program provides guidance, peer collaboration, and hands-on experiences to help young professionals build a strong **foundation for future success**.

SPOTLIGHT

The **Spotlight Program** is a 12-week leadership experience for young professionals in Stark County, meeting over **6 sessions from 4–6 PM**.

Participants identify and develop their personal strengths through the **GallupStrengths Assessment**, explore community issues, and connect with local leaders to make a meaningful impact.

By building leadership skills and fostering purposeful connections, Spotlight prepares young professionals to contribute to and strengthen the Stark County community.

NEXT LEVEL LEADERS

Next Level Leaders of Stark County is a membership program for emerging leaders committed to accelerating their leadership growth.

Through **mentoring with Signature alumni, mastermind sessions, and executive breakfast conversations**, members develop their skills, build meaningful connections, and gain insights from experienced leaders.

This **cohort-based program** provides guidance, peer collaboration, and real-world leadership experiences to **catapult members' careers**.

SIGNATURE

The **Signature Program** is a 10-month leadership journey for executives and senior leaders in Stark County.

Through **monthly program days, a two-day overnight retreat, advanced site visits, and community-focused experiences**, participants sharpen their leadership skills, connect with peers across industries, and gain a deeper understanding of local opportunities and challenges.

Many alumni go on to shape the future of Stark County through expanded leadership roles and meaningful community contributions.



ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Twenty under 40!

Twenty under 40! in Stark County recognizes **twenty outstanding young professionals under the age of 40** committed to making a difference in their community.

This initiative, held in June, celebrates individuals for their business acumen, leadership, community commitment, and personal achievements.

Emerging Leaders Conference

Emerging Leaders Conference is a one-day event held each fall **designed to connect young professionals with their peers and community leaders.**

The conference features keynote speakers, dynamic panels, and interactive breakouts, delivering practical tools and clear next steps to advance careers.

Spring Leadership Conference

Leadership Stark County's one-day spring professional development conference has a **different leadership focus each year.**

The conference aims to provide valuable insights and takeaways for attendees, focusing on effective leadership and the **importance of authentic human connections.**

Board Matching / Building Better Boards

Leadership Stark County strongly **encourages their Signature graduates and the community to join a non-profit board** they feel connected to.

To make that process easier, we provide board matching and board training. Training focus: Get more done, run more efficient meetings, think strategically, and moving toward your organizational goals.

Custom Gallup Strengths Team Trainings

The customized Gallup Strengths team trainings include an online **GallupStrengths profile and 2-7 hours of training** to assist with heightening understanding of personal leadership capacity and to strengthen teams in the workplace.

ystark!

ystark! is a community for young professionals in Stark County focused on building a community of Belonging, Impact and Growth through three key programs:

Sunrise Sessions: Join ambitious young professionals on Tuesday mornings at the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank to practice your pitch, make meaningful referrals, connect with other young professionals, and get motivated by an energizing and contagious community.

-Sunrise Sessions are FREE to the public
Every Tuesday, 8:30 – 9:45am
Akron-Canton Foodbank,
1365 Cherry Ave NE, Canton

YP Meet-Up!: Meet up monthly with fellow young professionals to build connections, explore new spots around town, and enjoy a great time in a relaxed, welcoming environment.

YP Impact!: Put your passion for service into action by giving back to our community alongside fellow young professionals at a local nonprofit.

