

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP FORUM

HOUSTON/GULF COAST

THE FELLOWS PROGRAM

CONNECT. INSPIRE. TRANSFORM.





THE ALF STORY

"I discovered that people are not really afraid of dying; they're afraid of not ever having lived, nor ever having deeply considered their life's higher purpose, and not ever having stepped into that purpose, and at least tried to make a difference in this world."

Joseph Jaworski
Founder, American Leadership Forum

American Leadership Forum (ALF) was founded in 1980 in Houston, Texas, by Joseph Jaworski, who left his successful law practice to address what he increasingly saw as a crisis of leadership throughout the country. He envisioned an organization dedicated to bringing together diverse leaders from multiple sectors in communities across the country to deeply explore their personal leadership capacity, build deep trust among the group to help each leader to get beyond the devaluing prejudices that we all hold, and to learn how diverse people can coalesce around issues and discover new possibilities.



The ALF Fellows program brings together demonstrated leaders to strengthen their capacity to address difficult and complex issues together. Graduates of the program — Senior Fellows — share a common understanding of, dedication to, and capacity

for acting as networked servant leaders. ALF's impact on the community springs from this engaged, vibrant, evolving, and active network of leaders who, through the course of their life and work, inspire their colleagues to community action.

THE FELLOWS PROGRAM



The ALF Fellows Program introduces you to senior leaders, challenging concepts, and unique experiences that deepen your life journey and connection to broader humanity. While ALF facilitators and curriculum provide the cornerstones, Fellows make the program.

Old ways of being, doing and problem-solving are no longer working. Information is coming at us faster and faster, and we are living through multiple “once in a generation” disruptions. ALF was built for this moment—where leaders of companies, organizations, communities, and movements convene and commit to mindful reflection, ground-breaking dialogues and co-creating new ways of being and doing that serve the greater good.

Our signature Fellows experience is built upon these leadership cornerstones:

- We believe in the power and importance of trusted relationships.
- We believe that diversity, equity, inclusion, justice and belonging are critical for thriving, equitable communities, healthy people, and a healthy planet.
- We believe in the power of dialogue and collaborative leadership with leaders who have curiosity about people whose identity, culture, background and life experiences may be different from their own.
- We believe we have a responsibility to prioritize active civic engagement to equitably serve for the benefit of all people in our communities.
- We prioritize and engage in practices of mindfulness, grace, acceptance, accountability and openness to personal and professional growth.



“WE NEED A LANGUAGE THAT BRINGS US TOGETHER ABOUT THE DEEPEST THINGS WE CARE ABOUT RATHER THAN PUSHING US APART.”

Joseph Jaworski
Founder, American Leadership Forum



Through the arc of the Fellows program year, the class explores three distinct levels that we at ALF believe can elevate you as a citizen of the human network.

Explore mindfulness and meditation for self-renewal, reflect on your life journey and leadership stance, learn and practice a different way of dialoguing around difficult issues, and try on concepts and new practices with your classmates in a trusted, confidential environment. Choose a question, decision, or area of focus to work on.

CONNECT

Take a journey to the wilderness with your classmates, deepening team relationships through physical challenges and exercises that explore our differences, creating renewed understanding and empathy for diverse life paths. Become comfortable being uncomfortable. Shift from a consumer mindset to a citizen mindset, creating a class network that cares for the whole. Discern the personal work we must undergo in order to create intended outcomes. Leverage your somatic intelligence to lead more powerfully.

INSPIRE

Collaborate with ALF facilitators around the keys to achieving our highest outcomes. Engage in ALF dialogue circles with classmates to work through barriers and begin to set a course forward. Connect to the greater ALF network, exploring ALF principles applied through ALF committees and the greater community. Commit to your next steps at Stand and Deliver, followed by an intimate graduation experience.

TRANSFORM

The ALF Fellows Program offers a compelling and relevant platform from which the class creates an authentic and dynamic learning environment. Three core principles help to create the most value in the program.



PRESENCE

The simple act of showing up and participating fully in each session may be the most powerful contribution you can make to the overall success of the program. The class selection

process is methodical and intentional. Your presence and engagement are critical to the class experience. Significant individual and class development opportunities occur throughout the year without regard to the subject matter on the agenda. Therefore, we caution you not to make any judgments about whether to attend based upon the content scheduled for the day. Fellows can be surprised by all they miss in one session.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The Fellows Program offers a unique opportunity for leaders to learn from each other. From day one, we request an agreement among all to hold our conversations in confidence. This confidence allows individuals to explore important issues and opportunities in a community of supportive peers.

DIALOGUE

ALF is a non-partisan organization bringing together a broad diversity of political ideologies and religious beliefs. Dialogue across differences is core to our curriculum and a commitment that we make to practice as Senior Fellows. The capacity to both engage in and sponsor dialogue for the common good is a distinguishing characteristic of an ALF Fellow and Senior Fellow.

APPLIED LEARNING

Throughout the year, each Fellow is asked to apply ALF principles and practices within his or her scope of influence. What each Fellow chooses to do can vary tremendously. One Fellow may alter the structure of a regularly occurring meeting; another may host a dialogue following a significant community event or occurrence.

HOSTING A SESSION

Fellows are invited to host one of the class sessions throughout the year. This is an opportunity to “bring your classmates to work” and provide insight into your organization and your world.



HOW TO BE A PART OF THE EXPERIENCE

ALF's Network Development Committee selects twenty-six leaders per class who have been nominated by the broader network of Senior Fellows, graduates of the Fellows program. The primary source of value in the ALF Fellows Program is the commitment of each Fellow to each other. As an organization, we must deeply invest in the care and development of these twenty-six Fellows, and must ask for your complete presence, commitment and participation throughout the Fellows year. Historically, classes have honored the needs of a Fellow who must miss a session due to unique and unavoidable circumstances. However, many classes have struggled when a particular Fellow is absent more than one session. ALF may decide to exit a Fellow from the program should they miss more than one class. Please manage your calendar to make all scheduled sessions.

PRESENCE, COMMITMENT, AND PARTICIPATION ARE REQUIRED.

TUITION

ALF Fellows Experience Tuition is \$11,000 + \$1,500 commitment fee (for a total of \$12,500). In order to secure your spot, payment is due within two weeks of receiving your invitation to the program. If this presents a hardship, payment plans may be arranged. Many Fellows are sponsored by the organization where they work with tuition being funded via professional development or travel budgets. Some Fellows cover tuition personally. The Personal Commitment Fee should be paid by the ALF Fellow.

Please note: Once you accept the invitation to join the Fellows Program by submitting registration paperwork, the personal commitment fee is non-refundable.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

As part of the Fellows experience, you will join your class on a six-day wilderness trip in the heart of the Rocky Mountains. Accommodations are shared. Participants will be involved in strenuous physical activities that include walking on uneven terrain, hiking uphill and downhill with a 10–25 lb. pack for distances of 5 – 8 miles at altitudes of up to 9,000 ft., plus rock climbing and rappelling. These activities are not required but comprise the group experience. All Fellows are required to visit their doctor for a physical prior to the trip and obtain a medical release. ALF has accommodated a wide variety of physical limitations. Please do not hesitate to ask for medically necessary accommodations prior to the trip.





SAMPLE CLASS SCHEDULE

APR

OPENING RECEPTION

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

MAY

ORIENTATION 2-DAY RETREAT

9:00 am Friday - 3:00 pm Saturday

JUNE

LOCAL SESSION 1

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

JUL

6-DAY WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

In either July or August

AUG

LOCAL SESSION 2

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

SEP

LOCAL SESSION 3

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

OCT

LOCAL SESSION 4

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

NOV

LOCAL SESSION 5

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

DEC

LOCAL SESSION 6

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

JAN

COMMENCEMENT 3-DAY RETREAT

9:00 am Friday - 3:00 pm Sunday

FEB

LEADERSHIP LAB 1

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

MAR

LEADERSHIP LAB 2

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

SEP

DEBRIEF REUNION

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm