



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF RICHMOND

2021-2022 New Member Information Packet

Dear Prospective Volunteer,

We are delighted that you are interested in joining the Junior League of Richmond (JLR)! Since 1926 Junior Leaguers have been working towards a better Richmond, tackling everything from child welfare during the Great Depression to literacy in the East End today. As our city changes, the League changes with it, but our commitment to service remains steadfast.

What has always made the Junior League of Richmond a strong, vibrant organization is the dedication of our trained volunteers. Each year we welcome New Members who are excited to improve their community and learn more about themselves in the process.

Before applying for membership, please give careful thought to the commitments for becoming a JLR volunteer, including:

- An interest in voluntarism
- A commitment to community service
- An interest in developing leadership skills
- Age and residency commitments:
 - A New Member shall be at least 21 years old before the end of the fiscal year (May 31) in which she joins as a New Member
 - A New Member must live in the Richmond area, which is defined as any location within a 45-mile radius of the center of the city of Richmond (9th and Main Streets)

This packet includes:

- An overview of JLR
- An overview of the required New Member Course
- Required application

The required application must be completed and submitted by **June 25, 2021**. The required New Member Course must be completed before you will be considered for Active membership in the Junior League of Richmond.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions. We look forward to getting to know you and working together to improve our community.

Sincerely,

Adrian Lipis

2021-2022 New Member Advisors, Chair

Mission Statement:

The Junior League of Richmond is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

Vision Statement:

An inclusive group of informed thought leaders intentionally serving and empowering women, youth, and families, striving for collective impact through collaboration and advocacy.

Community Focus Area: In 2019, the Junior League of Richmond voted to change its community focus area to women helping women and girls within the greater Richmond community. In 2021, based on significant research and in consultation with members, community leaders, and our Community Advisory Board (CAB), we narrowed the focus of Women Helping Women to the education of women ages 17-34. Women, age 17-34, living in greater Richmond, experience the highest rates of poverty, are often the head of their household, and receive less support than they need. By choosing this demographic, JLR ensures that our impact is truly aligned with our community focus, that we're serving a population with the greatest needs, and that our members can easily collaborate with and empower their peers.

Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion:

The Junior League of Richmond welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations, and communities.

Association of Junior Leagues International

Since its founding in 1901 by social activist Mary Harriman, the Junior League has evolved into one of the oldest, largest, and most effective women's volunteer organizations in the world, encompassing more than 150,000 women in 291 Leagues in four countries. For more than a century, the Junior League has been on the forefront of social reform, identifying problems—pollution, illiteracy, domestic violence, foster children without a safety net—and finding solutions. Founded in 1926, the Junior League of Richmond is proud to have been admitted into the Association of Junior Leagues International in 1927.

Community Impact:

The Junior League of Richmond (JLR) supports community programs and partners through annual fundraisers and the provision of trained volunteers in our community committees. We are able to help other local organizations expand their capacity and deliver a broad range of services to the Richmond community.

Fundraising Spotlights:

- **Touch a Truck**

Touch a Truck is a unique and interactive event that allows children to see, touch, and safely explore their favorite big trucks and heavy machinery and meet the personnel who protect, serve, and build the Richmond community. In 2019, the event raised over \$50,000 and had over 5,000 attendees. The funds raised at Touch A Truck help to support the League's community programs as well as training and development opportunities for members.

- **Clothes Rack**

The Junior League of Richmond owns two brick-and-mortar stores and one mobile store called the Rolling Rack. These stores support the mission of JLR by funding programs, increasing our community engagement, and supporting our nonprofit partners. All store merchandise is donated through the generosity of community and JLR members and is either sold to fund programming for the League or donated to support underserved communities.

- **Little Black Dress Initiative**

The Little Black Dress Initiative (LBDI) is a week long, social media driven fundraising campaign that encourages members to wear a little black dress (or outfit!) to raise awareness about women living in poverty in greater Richmond. Ambassadors wear a black outfit for five consecutive days and harness the power of their social media platforms to drive online donations. In 2020, JLR's LBDI raised \$13,500 with 40 member ambassadors to support the League's annual fund and contribute to our mission and community focus of Women Helping Women.

Community Committee Spotlights:

- **Career Jumpstart:**

This committee will present a monthly program to young women (target age 16-25) from local high schools and community colleges to share information about resume writing, networking, career exploration, and developing skills for employment. Partnerships will

be with local high schools, Community in Schools, Tyler Community College, and Reynolds Community College.

- **Reading Carnival:**

This committee will create and execute three to four family events at area community centers that emphasize family togetherness, education, and literacy. There will be multiple activities for caregivers (predominantly women) and children, plus books and activities for each family to take home. There will also be topical education and connections to resources for the caregivers. Our goal with these carnivals will be to encourage family engagement, provide access to books at home, increase caregiver literacy, and build community engagement.

- **Cooking with JLR:**

This new committee is a partnership between JLR, Shalom Farms, and the YWCA. JLR will purchase fresh produce from Shalom Farms and create HelloFresh-style meal kits (all ingredients, tools, and recipes) for women who are served by the YWCA. This includes women who are transitioning from domestic violence shelters to independent housing, women who receive clinical services at the YWCA, and underserved women who have children enrolled at the Sprout School.

- **Women RISE (Resources, Inspiration, Support, and Empowerment):**

Women RISE is a new committee and a partnership between JLR and REAL LIFE. REAL LIFE will collaborate with JLR to increase engagement with women who are struggling with prior incarceration and/or addiction. JLR members will offer support, socialization, and informal conversations/programs, led by a REAL LIFE moderator. This committee will connect REAL LIFE women with JLR members who will serve as a positive, encouraging, and collaborating part of their recovery.

NEW MEMBER COURSE

The New Member Course introduces you to life as a Junior League member and includes meetings, training classes, community volunteer shifts, and social events. Throughout this course, New Members learn to navigate their requirements, understand the League's mission and vision, acclimate to the organization, and begin to find their path in the League.

As a New Member, you will be assigned a New Member Advisor (NMA) along with other New Members. With your Advisor as a guide, you'll share your New Member experience with this group, attending projects and socials together.

For the 2021-2022 class, the New Member kick-off meeting will be held virtually on **July 24, 2021**. Super Saturday, as it's known, gives you the opportunity to meet other New Members and be introduced to the New Member Advisors, leaders, and other representatives of the Junior League of Richmond. Subsequent meetings will introduce you to the organizational structure of the Junior League of Richmond and acquaint you with the League's committees and projects.

A list of New Member requirements is included in this packet and will be reviewed at the inception of the course year by the New Member Advisors. The requirements are structured around giving you as many opportunities as possible to gain hands-on experience and develop an understanding of how we fulfill our mission. These opportunities involve our largest fundraiser, The Clothes Rack, along with other fundraising events, Done-in-a-Day (DIAD) community projects, Training Institute for Leadership Impact (TILI) courses, and General Membership Meetings.

2021-2022 New Member Requirements

UNLESS NOTED, MUST COMPLETE BY March 31, 2022

Membership Requirements

- 1 Super Saturday
- 2 General Membership Meetings
- 1 New Member Meeting
- 2 Advisor-Facilitated Social Attendance
- 1 New Member Advisor Meeting (mid-course check-in)
- 1 Update Digital Cheetah Profile
- Sign Membership Compact Commitment

Financial Requirements

- \$100 application fee (due with application by June, 25, 2021)
- \$161 New Member Dues (due by July 16, 2021)
- \$177.10 2022-2023 Dues (due by March 31, 2022). \$10 late fee.

The Clothes Rack Requirement

- 18 New Member Clothes Rack Credit Hours (9 2-hour shifts)

Community Council Shift Requirement

- 1 New Member Project (with New Member class)
- 1 Community Council Shift with our new community partners: Career Jumpstart, Reading Carnival, Cooking with JLR, or Women RISE.

Fund Development Requirement

- Participate in Little Black Dress Initiative (LBDI)
- 1 New Member In-League shift choosing from the following:
 - 1 In-League 3-hour shift at Touch a Truck
 - 1 In-League 3 hour shifts at Book and Author

Training Institute for Leadership Impact (TILI)

- 3 TILI courses – complete with the following:
 - 1 TILI at Super Saturday
 - 1 TILI at New Member Meeting
 - 1 TILI selected from options provided

New Member Personal Choice Options

- 3 of the following (no more than 2 of one option):
 - Additional General Membership Meeting
 - Additional Clothes Rack Shift
 - Donate/buy \$75 worth of merchandise at the Clothes Rack
 - Attend a Done-In-A-Day shift
 - Additional TILI course
 - Purchase Book & Author ticket
 - Purchase \$35 worth of Touch-A-Truck Tickets

*Commitments subject to change at discretion of Junior League of Richmond. All members are required to follow the Member Code of Conduct Policy found in our Policies and Procedures.