



JUNIOR LEAGUE RICHMOND

2024-2025 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 **May 31, 2024**. 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,

Whitney Finley
2024-2025 New Member Advisors, Chair

Mission Statement:

The Junior League of Richmond is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

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 125,000 women in 295 Leagues in five 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:

- **Book & Author**

Book & Author is the longest running event of its kind in the country, occurring annually for over 75 years. The event allows attendees to discover a range of distinguished authors and their books. The funds raised at Book & Author help to support the League's community programs as well as training and development opportunities for members.
- **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 2022, the event raised over \$70,000 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.
- **The Clothes Rack**

The Junior League of Richmond owns one brick-and-mortar store, The Clothes Rack, and one mobile store, 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 the community and JLR members and is either sold to fund programming for the League or donated to support underserved communities.
- **Giving Week**

Giving Week is a week-long, social media driven fundraising campaign that raises awareness about the Junior League of Richmond. In 2024, Giving Week raised over \$17,000 with 27 members participating as ambassadors raising awareness about the League's mission work.

Community Committee Spotlights:

- **Career Jumpstart:**
Career Jumpstart partners with the Forward Foundation and the families they serve to ideate, plan, and implement one program per quarter. The programs vary but currently are focused in the professional and personal development space.
- **Cooking with JLR:**
Cooking with JLR partners with Shalom Farms and the YWCA to provide women who are served by the YWCA with fresh, locally-grown produce, food boxes with nutritious ingredients, recipes, and essential kitchen tools and supplies. This includes women who are transitioning from domestic violence shelters to independent housing and women who receive clinical services at the YWCA.
- **Women RISE (Resources, Inspiration, Support, and Empowerment):**
Women RISE partners with REAL Life to connect with women in the greater Richmond community who need female comradery, education, and a support network as they navigate the transition from incarceration, addiction issues, housing insecurity, and/or poverty. This program helps to empower underserved women and provide resources, education, and conversation around topics that are defined by REAL Life as most applicable.

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 2024-2025 class, the New Member kick-off meeting will likely be held on either **July 13 or July 20, 2024** (date TBD). Super Saturday, as it is 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 (GMM).

2024-2025 New Member Requirements

UNLESS NOTED, MUST COMPLETE BY March 31, 2025

The Requirements and dates below are as of May 2024 and subject to change, but provide an example of the opportunities to meet and volunteer with fellow New Members.

Financial Requirements

- \$100.00 application fee (due with application by May 31, 2024)
- \$195.25 New Member Dues (due by July 15, 2024)
- \$205.02 2025-2026 Dues (due by March 31, 2025). \$10 late fee.

Membership Requirements

- 1 Super Saturday (July 2024)
- 2 General Membership Meetings (TBD - projected dates are August 19, 2024, October 20-26, 2024, December 4, 2024, January 27, 2025, Mid-March – Early May 2025, and May 20, 2025)
- 1 New Member Meeting (January 27, 2025)
- 2 Advisor-Facilitated Social Attendance
- 1 New Member Advisor Meeting (mid-course check-in)
- 1 Update Digital Cheetah Profile
- Sign Membership Compact Commitment

The Clothes Rack Requirement

- 10 New Member Clothes Rack Credit Hours (5 2-hour shifts)

Community Council Shift Requirement

- 1 New Member Project (with New Member class) (Fall 2024 - exact date TBD)
- 1 Community Council Shift with our community partners

Fund Development Requirement

- 1 New Member In-League shift choosing from the following:
 - 1 In-League 3-hour shift at Touch a Truck (October 5, 2024)
 - 1 In-League 3-hour shift at Book and Author (End of April/Early May 2025)

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 on Digital Cheetah

New Member Personal Choice Options

- 8 of the following:
 - Attend a Done-In-A-Day
 - Attend an additional General Membership Meeting (max: 2)
 - Attend an additional TILI course
 - Attend an Affinity Group Activity (max: 2)
 - Donate \$75 or more towards the Annual Fund (max: 1)
 - Participate in Giving Week or other Annual Fund campaign (max: 1)
 - Work an additional 2 hours at The Clothes Rack

*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.