

INSTITUTE for GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP



Application for IGEL Participation – 2026 Program Year

Thank you for your interest in applying for the Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership (IGEL) program. By completing this application form, you are agreeing to be considered for the next class of IGEL. The application process is designed to help determine who is the best fit for our next class of IGELians, and by applying you agree that you understand the goals of IGEL:

1. Fostering a deeper understanding of Georgia's environmental issues
2. Providing a candid, empathetic, confidential forum for participants to explore each other's views and motivations
3. Engaging participants in key aspects of leadership, including creative problem-solving, conflict resolution, trust building, and enhanced communication skills

IGEL – A Network of Knowledgeable, Skilled Leaders

Georgia's environmental challenges require leaders from every sector who engage knowledgeably – and with trust. IGEL gathers passionate people from industry, government, advocacy, academia, community – and beyond – to participate in world-class leadership development, expert environmental education, and candid, empathetic dialogue about environmental challenges. IGEL's rigorous immersive educational experiences help equip Georgia leaders with the environmental knowledge, perspectives, and relationships they need to lead our state for decades to come.

Our core experiential, educational training program brings together a group of 30 leaders from across the state of Georgia for four, engaging and interactive two to three-day experiences throughout the course of the program year. The intense, hands-on learning and dialogue taps into the experiences of experts who will lead and explore complex environmental issues. This is not a traditional conference room experience – it is an up-close, first-hand exploration and experience that affords leaders new perspectives and develops life-long relationships. The program focuses on providing leaders with the deep knowledge, advanced skills, and expansive network needed to address Georgia's environmental challenges now and in the future.

Additional Information – IGEL Selection Criteria

Besides reviewing each candidate's qualifications, IGEL strives to ensure each class reflects members representing a wide range of professions, sectors, interests, political viewpoints, and experiences. We believe this balance is essential to the IGEL experience. As a result, many outstanding candidates find it necessary to apply multiple times before being invited to participate, and we strongly encourage repeat applications for the same reason. The general criteria are as follows:

- Application to IGEL is open to individuals residing within the State of Georgia
- Each class size is limited to thirty (30) participants
- Participants are selected by a committee based upon their individual merit and evaluated on the information provided on the application.
- IGEL seeks a diverse representation of organizations and individuals, to include academia, business, community, state, government, and non-profit throughout the State of Georgia.
- Applicants must have the full support of the organization represented in order to fully engage and participate for the duration of the program year.
- Attendance at each session is mandatory.
- In reviewing applications, the committee will consider the following criteria:
 - Diverse and strong volunteer or work experience
 - Policy-sharing responsibility and/or leadership experience
 - Experience and the proven ability to develop solutions to address Georgia's environmental challenges
 - Applicant's ability to make the time commitment as required by the program

Up to two letters of recommendation may be submitted, but are not required, and will be accepted up until the application deadline of **October 3, 2025**.

Recommendations received after the due date will not be considered. Letters can be emailed to info@igeleaders.org or mailed directly to IGEL, Inc., P.O. Box 2, Columbus, GA 31902.

2026 Program Dates

The 2026 program consists of four sessions,* currently slated to be:

Date	Location
April 21-24, 2026	North Georgia
July 21-24, 2026	Metro Atlanta
September 22-25, 2026	Southwest Georgia
November 10-13, 2026	Coastal Georgia

*Note that some engagement via virtual meetings/sessions may be incorporated into the 2026 program.

While 100% individual participation is expected, IGEL recognizes that extraordinary emergencies and unplanned situations may occur. The Program Committee reserves the right to authorize absences as requested by the participant or impose other measures for failure to participate at the 100% level.

You may begin the process by clicking the "Next Page" Link at the bottom of this page.

Application Instructions:

- Complete each section in full according to the directions.
- Limit answers to available space, which will not exceed 2,000 characters.
- No more than two letters of recommendation will be accepted.
- All applicants will be notified of a decision the first week in November 2025.

Please complete all items on the application form to the best of your ability. If you have previously completed an IGEL application and would like to be considered for the upcoming class, please complete an updated application as additional information may be required. If you would like a copy of your previous application, please contact info@igeleaders.org and provide your current contact information and we will be happy to provide it to you.

Applications are **due by 5:00 p.m. EST on Friday, October 3, 2025**. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

As you complete the application, your responses are automatically saved on the secure survey site. When you have completed and submitted your application, you will be directed to a copy of your responses which you may then save as a pdf file.

Please complete all sections of the application below.

Personal Information

Name:

Preferred name (for
Name Tags):

Phone Number:

Alternate Phone
Number:

Primary Email Address:

Secondary Email
Address (Optional)

Street Address

City

State/Province

Postal Code

County

Professional Background/Employment

Current Job Title

Current Employer

Industry

☐

Government/Federal/State/Regional/
Local

☐

Non-Profit/501c3

☐

General Business/Public Entity

☐

Agriculture/Forestry

☐

Architecture/Landscape/Engineering

☐

Industry/Manufacturing

☐

Legal

☐

Small Business Owner

☐

Land Development/Real Estate

☐

Education/University

☐

Other (Please describe)

Please indicate your highest level of education and/or certifications/licenses

☐ High School

☐ Associate's Degree

☐ Bachelor's Degree

☐ Master's Degree

☐ Doctorate

☐ Licenses/Certifications (list all certifications or highest level earned)

☐ Other (Please describe)

☐ Special Awards/Honors (Please list)

Optional Demographic Data

Your answers to the following questions assist IGEL in ensuring that participants reflect the many aspects of the diverse state of Georgia. Answering these questions is completely voluntary.

Age Range

☐ 21 to 24

☐ 25 to 29

☐ 30 to 39

☐ 40 to 49

☐ 50 to 59

☐ 60+

☐ I prefer not to answer

Gender

☐ Female

☐ Male

☐ Non-binary/third gender

☐ I use another term

☐ I prefer not to answer

Preferred pronoun

☐ She/Her

☐ He/Him

☐ They/Them

☐ I use another term

☐ I prefer not to answer

Race

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native

☐ Asian

☐ Black or African American

☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

☐ White

☐ Two or more races

☐ I prefer not to answer

Ethnicity

☐ Hispanic or Latino or Spanish Origin

☐ Not Hispanic or Latino or Spanish Origin

☐ I prefer not to answer

Applicant Narrative and Leadership Philosophy

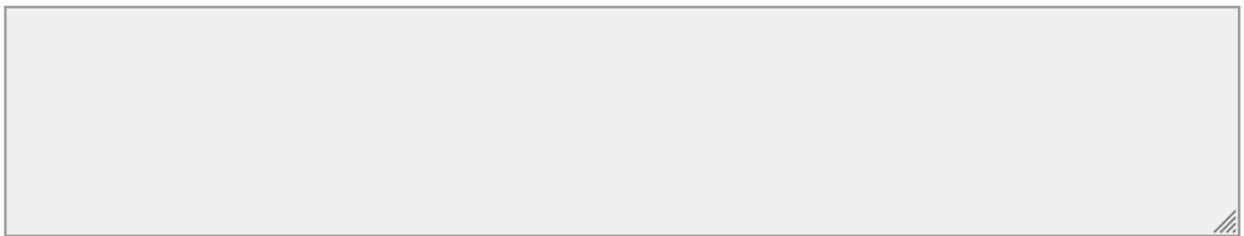
Your responses to the questions below will be limited to 2,000 characters, including spaces.

Please provide no more than three (3) of your most significant work or life experiences within the last ten (10) years. Include the type of organization, the type of work or life experience, position(s) held and the date(s):

List no more than five (5) organizations or activities (i.e. industry associations, leadership training programs, educational experiences, volunteer activities, etc.) in which you have been involved in the past ten (10) years. Include the name of the organization, its purpose or activities, dates you were involved and the position(s) held.



What do you believe are three (3) key environmental issues in Georgia today and what do you think could be accomplished to address one of these issues?



Provide a detailed example of how you have committed yourself to understanding and aiding in the pursuit of Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in your professional or personal work.

As a participant of IGEL, describe your long-term commitment to the organization and how you plan to work to advance the mission of IGEL, both as a participant and an alumni.

Please tell us how you learned about IGEL

☐ Friend/co-worker

☐ Current IGELian

☐ Recommended by supervisor/organization

☐ Social Media/LinkedIn

☐ IGEL Networking Event

☐ Other

Have you previously applied for participation in IGEL?

☐ Yes (If yes, please indicate the year(s) you applied.)

☐ No

Tuition and Fees

To make the program more accessible, the Board of Directors intentionally has established the cost of tuition at a lower rate than the estimated delivery costs of \$18,000 per participant for the program. The balance of the program expenses are supported by contributions from donors, sponsors, grants, and partners who support our passion and commitment to sustainability, environmental education, and training the next generation of leaders.

Tuition costs do not cover any pre- or post-session lodging, extra-curricular activities, transportation arrangements or travel expenses to attend the scheduled sessions. or activities. These costs are the responsibility of each participant and participation in the program is not extended to cover family members, significant others, partners, or friends.

Participant Fee

Tuition costs for each participant are determined by the category of the sponsoring organization and the information below reflects the tuition costs according to this classification.

\$5,900	\$7,400
Academia/University	Federal/State Government
501c3/501c4	501c6
Local Government	S/C Corp
Revenues < \$1M	Revenues \$1M-\$4.99M

☐ **\$5,900**

☐ **\$7,400**

As noted above, the total estimated cost of the program per participant is \$18,000. This cost covers tuition, materials, lodging, facilitation costs and other related fees. Please indicate if you or your organization will consider covering the cost of \$18,000 to make this valuable opportunity possible for your candidate.

☐ Yes, I will consider paying the full tuition amount of \$18,000

Additional Information

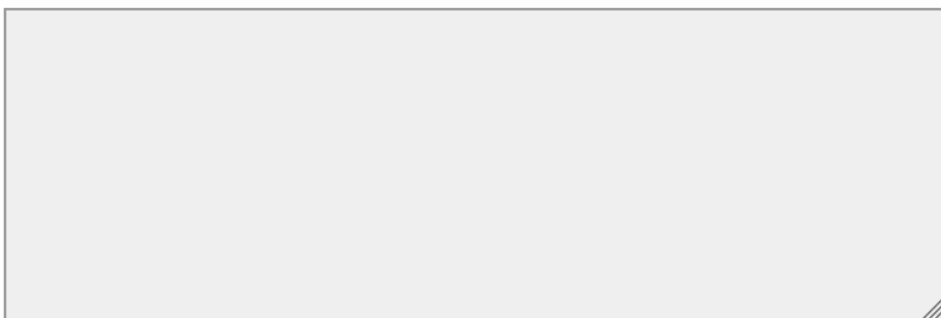
Who will be responsible for the payment of your tuition and other expenses?

☐ My employer

☐ I will pay my own tuition and expenses

☐ Both my employer and I will pay for tuition and expenses

☐ Other (Please explain)



If you are selected for the program, you will receive an invoice for your tuition and a letter of commitment. Payment of the tuition in full and the letter of commitment must be returned to IGEL by December 5, 2025. Failure to remit the full amount of the tuition due by the deadline will result in the offer of acceptance to the candidate being withdrawn; however, the candidate may reapply for the next program year.

Scholarship Information

A limited number of need-based scholarships* are available for selected applicants. Selection for IGEL is made independent of financial assistance requests. These requests and grants are kept confidential and class participants are not identified as a scholarship or grant recipient.

**Please indicate below if you are interested in receiving information on scholarships to assist with tuition costs and the amount of scholarship requested. There are a limited number of scholarships available based upon demonstration of need and the qualifications associated with each scholarship.*

I am interested in information on scholarships to help pay my IGEL tuition.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please indicate the amount (percentage of total tuition cost) of the scholarship that you are requesting below, along with an explanation of your need. Describe any other sources of assistance or sponsorship for IGEL you are currently pursuing or have secured. Requests not accompanied by an explanation will not be considered.

Thank you for your application to the Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership. We always have more extremely qualified applicants than we have available spaces in the class. As such, the IGEL Board and Selections Committee takes the selection process very seriously.

Participants are proven leaders who represent Georgia's economic, ethnic, geographic, and institutional diversity. We believe the success of our program is based upon our intentional representation of a wide range of professions, interests, political perspectives, and experiences of participants.

The 2026 class will be selected by early November and all applicants will be notified of their selection status by mid-November.

If you have additional questions about the process, you may contact us at info@igeleaders.org.

Please make sure that you click on "Next Page" to finish and submit your application. You will be taken to a copy of your responses, where you can download or print that report from your browser. If you are not redirected to view a copy of your responses, please let us know at info@igeleaders.org.