



Opelika's 20 Under 40, a program of the Opelika Chamber of Commerce, is looking for 20 outstanding people under the age of 40 who live in Opelika, love Opelika, and have a vested interest in shaping the direction of this city's future. The 20 Under 40 Program is dedicated to developing leaders by providing opportunities:

**20**  
— under —  
**FORTY**

- 1) To learn about community and government affairs while giving back to the community through a class service project;
- 2) To develop professionally through training and skill-based learning initiatives; and
- 3) To engage and connect as well as forge relationships with local business and organization leaders.

### **Time Commitment of Program**

The 20 Under 40 Program officially runs from August 2024 to May 2025; however, participants for the 2024-2025 class of 20 Under 40 are encouraged to attend a kick-off social in July to meet their classmates.

Mandatory Events/Sessions for the Program are as follows:

- Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 – Full Day Orientation Retreat (9:00am to 4:00pm)
- Class Sessions begin in August and will be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 4:00pm to 6:30pm.
- Hold an active role in class service project.
- Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Full Day Winter Retreat (9:00am to 4:00pm)
- Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Graduation from Program (6:00pm to 8:00pm)

### **Requirements for Selection**

Candidates may self-nominate or be nominated by someone who recognizes them as an up-and-coming civic leader. Candidates must meet the following qualifications for consideration:

- 1) Live in Opelika city limits
- 2) Be 40 years of age or younger at the time of the application deadline
- 3) Pay the tuition cost of \$500.00
- 4) Demonstrate a love for Opelika

To apply, applicants **MUST** complete the attached application and provide two letters of reference about why you would be a good class member. The application and two letters of reference can be e-mailed to Mackenzie Poole at [mackenzie@opelikachamber.com](mailto:mackenzie@opelikachamber.com) or turned in at the Opelika Chamber at 601 Avenue A, Opelika, Alabama.

***The deadline for submission is June 14, 2024.***

For more information, contact:

Mackenzie Poole

Telephone: 334.745.4861

Email: [mackenzie@opelikachamber.com](mailto:mackenzie@opelikachamber.com)

## Information about the Applicant

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Were you nominated by someone? **Yes** **No**

If yes, please include nominator's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first time applying for the 20 Under 40 program? **Yes** **No**

### **Payment Options**

The tuition cost to participate in the program is \$500.00. The tuition is not due with the application but is due within 30 days if you are selected for the program. Payment can be completed with a check or by card. There are three ways to pay for the program: 1) Pay for yourself, 2) Have your Business Sponsor you, 3) Apply for the Opelika Chamber's Scholarship (see scholarship application on webpage to apply).

Please select if you are planning to:

**Pay for Yourself** **Business Sponsored** **Applying for Scholarship**

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you (or your company) a member of the Opelika Chamber? **Yes** **No**

Have you informed your employer that you have applied for this program? **Yes** **No**

***Please answer the following questions in depth. If additional space is needed, please attach additional pages.***

**1) What interests you most about Opelika's 20 under 40 program? What makes you a good fit for the program?**

**2) What do you expect to gain from participating in this program?**

**3) As a resident of Opelika, what role would you like to play in its future progress?**

**4) Please share your favorite Opelika experience.**

**5) Please list your volunteer and leadership experience.**

**6) Please include a short biography for the newspaper if you are selected to the program.** *(Ex: Bob Smith is a Professor at Southern Union State Community College. Prior to joining Southern Union, Bob served as an 10th grade history teacher. He completed his Masters in Public Administration from the University of Georgia. Bob has lived in Opelika for 5 years with his wife Jill.)*

**7) Please list any accommodation needs or dietary restrictions.**

**8) Please list your t-shirt size.**