

The Honorable Bob Schaffer Chairman Leadership Program of the Rockies

Bob is Chairman of the Leadership Program of the Rockies. He is the Chairman of the Colorado State Board of Education, a former Member of Congress and former Colorado State Senator. He is the Principal at Liberty Common High School and The Liberty Common School's Junior High – a charter high school and junior-high school in Fort Collins, Colorado. He is also a Trustee of Yorktown University.



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MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM OF THE ROCKIES CHAIRMAN What is LPR?

What do a U.S. cabinet secretary, a U.S. Congressman, dozens of state legislators, hundreds of local elected officials, key business leaders, conservative talk-show hosts, columnists, bloggers and top community leaders have in common? They've all graduated from the Leadership Program of the Rockies (LPR).

The program has been around for many years. The goal is to select 65 of Colorado's most promising and aspiring leaders, bring them together and involve them in a 9month intensive course on the basic elements of effective leadership – American style.

From there, LPR leaders are expected to lead. We expect them to immerse themselves in worthy civic causes, community-improvement activities and politics.

Not all LPR graduates run for office. In fact, the program isn't really geared for that. But nearly all are involved at some way in the process of selecting political leaders at all levels.

LPR's philosophy is firmly rooted in the classical-liberal traditions of the American Revolution and America's Founding Fathers. These traditions clearly align with the modern conservative movement. America's libertarian mores are often evident, too.

We stress the virtues of free-markets, Austrian-school economics, the elements of liberty stemming from Natural Law. We strive to fully understand why these principles inspired the Declaration of Independence and how they were woven into the U.S. Constitution.

To graduate, one must make a cogent moral case for capitalism. Concepts like private-property rights, personal responsibility, legitimate rights versus entitlements and more are dissected and understood to a rather full extent.

We read from books like Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*, Milton Freedman's *Free To Choose*, original sources like the *Federalist Papers*, presidential speeches and similar works. The most valuable long-term aspect of the program is a growing alliance of like-minded leaders — all strong in their defense of liberty and their abilities in carrying the torch of freedom.

LPR refines elemental leadership skills, too. Students learn how to communicate better. They hone debate skills, communication strategies, fundraising tactics, organizational skills and logic.

Getting into the program is a competitive endeavor. Hundreds throughout Colorado apply every year.

Only 65 are selected. Participation isn't cheap.

Those who complete the program find themselves acquainted with a new group of friends spread throughout Colorado and beyond. The LPR family is vast, influential, vigilant, active and brave.

The brilliance of the Leadership Program of the Rockies is that it works very well. Students come from all walks of life. A successful candidate for enrollment will have demonstrated some capacity for leadership already.

They will be able to share some vision they have for their personal ambitions toward noble civic leadership. They'll have passion for a set of issues that motivate them. They'll clearly express their love for America and their belief in American exceptionalism.

Their instincts will be in the direction of individual liberty, unalienable rights, courage and strength.

Maintaining the Republic entails intelligent, informed action from those who understand the principles of prosperity, who find agreement with the Founding Fathers and who are motivated to do the hard work of freedom.

The Leadership Program of the Rockies is always looking for those who share these timeless values. It's what we do to advance the holy cause of liberty.