

NORTH AMERICAN ACADEMY

February 19-22, 2025
New Orleans, LA, USA
Embassy Suites

Applicable skills and development.
Trajectory-changing experiences.
Real-world problem solving.

The JCI USA North American Academy is an immersive experience that combines leadership and personal growth. Nationally and internationally renowned trainers provide three days of activities and coaching that will push you out of your comfort zone and to your next level. You'll leave inspired and ready to drive immediate improvement in your organization.

APPLY TODAY!



February 19-22, 2025 • New Orleans, LA, USA

Prepare for a leadership experience like no other.

North American Academy includes about 30 hours of training plus group work in small groups during three days together with delegates and trainers from around the world. When the attendee arrives home from the JCI North American Academy, they will have learned new skills relating to interacting in and leading a group, how to motivate others, built an international network of like-minded people and future colleagues, and learned how to act strategically with community and organizational stakeholders to create positive change.

The course modules include:

- Improve communication skills in a multicultural environment
- Discover personality types and analyze the participant's strengths and improvement areas
- Complete group challenges with problem solving and team coordination
- Demonstrate and develop presentation techniques during a group project delivery
- Develop leadership skills and experience group development phases
- Deepen strategic thinking debate and advocacy skills related to community challenges

We hope you'll apply to this amazing experience! If you have any questions, please feel free to [reach out directly](#).

On behalf of the JCI North American Academy Event Team,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Newlyn Wing". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Newlyn Wing
JCI USA Executive Director

Junior Chamber International, JCI, is a non-profit organization of young leaders and changemakers aged 18 to 40 who are engaged and committed to creating impact in their communities throughout 100 countries.

JCI USA provides leadership development opportunities that empower young people to create positive change. Read more at www.jciusa.org.



Academy Location & Accommodations

The Academy will take place at the Embassy Suites in New Orleans at:
315 Julia St, New Orleans, LA 70130

Lodging is included in your registration fee and you'll be matched with one other roommate for the week (each person will have their own bed with same-sex participants). Accommodations will be made from Wednesday, February 19 through Sunday, February 22. If you would like information about booking additional hotel nights, please contact Newlyn Wing at nwing@jciusa.org (any additional nights will be on your own).

NAA is designed to be an immersive experience where you connect with other young leaders from around the world. Similar to other JCI Academies, you'll be paired with a same-sex roommate in a double room for the duration of the week.

If you need alternative accommodations, please reach out to Newlyn Wing at nwing@jciusa.org and we can explore different options. Please keep in mind that Academy registration costs are based on double-occupancy rooms, so alternatives may have different pricing.

Attendee Expectations

North American Academy is an immersive experience and is not your normal convention! We want attendees to get the most out of their experience, which comes with the following expectations:

- **Remember that Academy is an immersive experience**
NAA is designed to be transformative, so please keep in mind that the days will be full with sessions, group work, and other activities. Attendees are expected to be fully present barring any personal/work emergencies. If you would like to explore the host city or do other sightseeing, the discounted hotel rate is available before and after the scheduled Academy dates.
- **Come with a growth mindset**
Participants are expected to come with a growth mindset, which means embracing new ideas, other viewpoints, and encouraging constructive conversation.
- **Trust the process**
An agenda will not be released so be ready to brace the unexpected! Attendees must participate in every module and activity in order to graduate. All parts are mandatory, so please do not expect to be able to attend work meetings or calls during the Academy. Participants can plan to be in sessions from early morning to late night.
- **Practice respect for others**
You'll be meeting people from across industries, nationalities, etc. so mutual respect of different viewpoints and backgrounds is critical to getting the most of your experience.

What's Included

Your registration fee includes:

- Four nights of hotel (double rooms for double occupancy or triple occupancy for suites)
- Over 30 hours of development sessions, activities, and content
- Networking with other young changemakers from across the United States and world
- Daily breakfast, Wednesday reception, lunch on Friday and Saturday
- Graduation ceremony and celebration

The price for the JCI North American Academy is:

- JCI USA members - \$600 (Early bird until November 1st then regular will be \$650)
- JCI International members - \$650
- Non-members - \$750
- Event Team - \$400

*JCI USA is also offering payment plans to make NAA more financially accessible. You can sign up for six monthly payments of \$105 [through this link](#).

Academy Schedule

We consciously do not provide attendees with a detailed schedule. Attendees should plan on arriving on Wednesday in time for the evening reception on Wednesday, February 19 at 7:00 PM. The Academy officially starts on Thursday, February 20 at 8:00 AM and attendees are required to be registered and present at that time.

The Academy ends with the graduation cocktail reception on Saturday evening, February 22. Please keep in mind that the days during the Academy are fully booked and attendees will not have time to leave the Academy during this time. All modules are mandatory - sightseeing, shopping, etc. need to be conducted before or after the Academy.

Information Updates

Attendees will receive several emails leading up to the event and will be sent to the email submitted with the registration form. Should you change the email address, please let [Newlyn Wing](#) know.

Weather

February is generally comfortable in New Orleans, with lows hovering around the 50°F/10°C and highs around 79°F/21°C.

16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Avg	Avg	Avg	Avg	Avg	Avg	Avg
69°	69°	69°	69°	70°	70°	70°
51°	51°	51°	52°	52°	52°	52°

What to Pack

We recommend packing:

- Attire
 - Thursday & Saturday: Business casual
 - Friday: Outdoor clothing (something you'll be comfortable walking around in)
 - Shoes that you're comfortable walking in
 - Graduation ceremony will be cocktail attire
- Note-taking items: pens/paper as well as a laptop or tablet for group work.
- Business cards
- (Optional) Bring something that represents your chapter, state, or country for the other Academy attendees (estimated 80-100 attendees). For example, Pennsylvania members have brought Hershey's items/candy since it's based in their state.

*Do I need any money?

Academy registration includes 4 nights hotel accommodation (shared room), breakfast at the hotel, 2 days lunch (academy days), happy hour snack/networking break each evening, and a cocktail reception graduation ceremony. Dinner each evening is on your own, to be coordinated through your group assignments.

Insurance

JCI USA takes no responsibility for the participants' insurance (health, travel, etc). Photo and risk waivers will be required to be signed at registration on Wednesday evening.

Visas

Citizens from some countries require a visa to enter the USA. The visa application should be made at the USA Embassy in your country before departure. Please contact JCI USA nwing@jciusa.org if you have any questions or need further assistance.



Frequently Asked Questions

Can I attend the Academy more than once?

As a regular attendee, no. We do encourage graduates to apply to be part of the Event Team, which delivers the training, group activities, and logistical support.

Are there limitations for who can apply?

North American Academy exists to empower the future leaders of the JCI USA movement, so priority is given to those that have at least 3+ years remaining in their JCI tenure. However, consideration is given to all applicants so you can certainly still apply if you don't fit this description.

What's included in the registration?

These are included with registration:

- Four nights of hotel (double rooms for double occupancy)
- Over 30 hours of development sessions, activities, and content
- Networking with other young changemakers from across the United States and world
- Daily breakfast, Wednesday reception, lunch on Friday and Saturday
- Graduation ceremony and celebration

Does each State have an attendee allocation?

Yes, until October 15th. To ensure that each State has the opportunity for representation at the Academy, a certain number of spaces will be reserved through October 31, 2024. After this, it'll be first come, first serve.

Registration is more than it has been in the past. How come?

We've previously had support from groups like the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce Foundation which helped to offset certain expenses, and JCI USA also invested in the event to get it off the ground. The current registration reflects the true cost of the event and will allow it to be sustainably run in the future. To ensure it's financially viable for members to attend, we're offering a monthly payment option and will be sharing resources for individual fundraising so members can attend.

Where do I fly into?

The closest airport (15-20 minutes from the Academy site) is the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY).

How do the rooming assignments work?

NAA is designed to be an immersive experience where you connect with other young leaders from around the world. Similar to other JCI Academies, you'll be paired with a same-sex roommate in a double room for the duration of the week.

If you need alternative accommodations, please reach out to Newlyn Wing (nwing@jciusa.org) and we can explore different options. Please keep in mind that Academy registration costs are based on double-occupancy rooms, so alternatives may have different pricing.