



Overview

Executives from Tampa area businesses and professional firms continue to seek meaningful ways to contribute to the community. For over twenty years, one of the area's most popular vehicles for positive corporate exposure is The Tampa Connection. For a modest cost, you can make a significant investment in your up-and-coming leaders. **The Tampa Connection** experience helps guide the executive into key leadership roles while helping meet Tampa's growing social, health and education needs.

The Tampa Connection's mission is to prepare class members to become active volunteers and leaders in the Tampa Bay community while building professional relationships. This will:

- Introduce avenues for enthusiastic executives to get involved in the community in meaningful ways, help them develop civic leadership skills, and expose them to the local issues and personalities of today;
- Provide a new cadre of enthusiastic, talented volunteers to our community's education, health, and human service organizations;
- Give dynamic executives an opportunity to build business contacts and friendships through networking in a professional, organized setting with current class members, board members and alumni **since 1985**;
- Give corporations and businesses a vehicle for involving their executives in the community and, in the process of being a good corporate citizen, increase the organization's community visibility.

Participation

Membership

The class is exclusively selected and limited. The deadline to receive applications is **July 15, 2008**. Each applicant should be in or near middle management, and destined for leadership in his or her community and company. The sponsor pays the one-time class fee of \$750 per individual member, which covers the twelve programs and social networking opportunities.

In addition to the numerous benefits the class member receives throughout **The Tampa Connection** experience, the one-time fee will also cover the graduate's membership in the **Tampa Connection Alumni Association (TCAA)**. The TCAA will further expose the executive to class members, corporations and non-profit organizations that have been involved with **The Tampa Connection** since 1985, ultimately allowing for a broader base of corporate visibility and relationship building with recognized leaders in the Tampa Bay community.

Program

The Board of Directors, comprised of **The Tampa Connection** alumni and community leaders, sets overall policy and provides program direction and support.

Meetings

The program begins in late August and continues through May. Meetings will be held approximately every three weeks on Tuesday at various times and locations in the Tampa area to be announced at a later date. In addition, there will be an opportunity to participate in a ride-along with law enforcement. Sponsors will be invited to attend the graduation ceremony.

Meetings will include presentations on community issues, opportunities for volunteer involvement, and small group discussions about related matters. Prominent leaders of the community will bring members up to date on current issues and events. Feedback from members about the meetings has played a large part in improving the program over the past twenty-two years and will continue to help shape subsequent programs.

Each program meeting will also provide the opportunity for the class member to develop relationships and business contacts with other executives and community leaders.

Team Projects

In addition to the program meetings, **The Tampa Connection** members also participate in an on-going team project throughout the year. Projects are selected by the Tampa Connection Board from applications solicited from non-profit agencies in Hillsborough County. Class members are organized into project teams based upon their indicated preference and work with their assigned agency toward the completion of their projects. Fundraising and projects extending beyond the class year are not considered. Team projects are an effective way to provide hands-on training to **The Tampa Connection** members, allowing them the opportunity to work in an area of interest while meeting a specific agency need. These projects are a valuable component of the membership experience and are critical to the overall focus of connecting Tampa's future leadership to its needs.

Commitment

The full benefit of The Tampa Connection is only available to those sponsors and members who participate fully. Therefore, the schedule of meetings for the year is published in advance to assure that both sponsors and members can plan for 100% attendance. Sponsors are encouraged to support the attendance of their members at all meetings.

Attendance of the membership will be monitored. Due to the commitment requested and agreed on by the members, anyone with more than three absences for program meetings or with chronic absence from team meetings will be reviewed by The Tampa Connection Board of Directors and may be dropped from the program without refund of the sponsorship fee.

Cooperation

United Way of Tampa Bay's Volunteer Services has been very supportive of **The Tampa Connection** experience. United Way's Volunteer Services is the community's foremost resource for volunteerism and will assist in providing meaningful volunteer experiences during the program year and after graduation.

Honors:

Interests/Hobbies:

Please tell us how you learned about The Tampa Connection:

Please list the community, civic, professional, business, religious, social, athletic and other organizations in which you are or have been a member.

Discuss your reasons for wanting to be a participant in The Tampa Connection:

Corporate Sponsor Commitment:

Our Company is committed to providing its full support of the attendance required for our applicant and payment of sponsorship fees.

Corporate Sponsor's Printed Name

Corporate Sponsor's Signature

Corporate Sponsor's phone number

Corporate Sponsor's Email address

Corporate Sponsor's Mailing address (street, city, state, zip)

Applicant's Commitment:

Before considering participation, are you willing to commit to full, active involvement in The Tampa Connection programs? (Circle One:) Yes No Initials _____

Anyone with more than three absences or with chronic absence from team meetings may not be eligible for graduation. Initials _____

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Please return application, photograph, release form and check for \$750.00* per applicant by July 15, 2008 to:

The Tampa Connection
P.O. Box 22051
Tampa, FL 33622

**Sponsorship fees are not refundable.
A late fee of \$25.00 will be imposed for checks received after August 11, 2008. Interest will be charged to your account at a rate of 1.5% per month or portion thereof after August 11, 2008.*