



Ascending Lights Leadership Network Application

For the final cohort of students starting in the Summer or Fall Semesters of 2022

(To be completed by the pastor or other church minister)

PERSON COMPLETING APPLICATION _____

TITLE: _____

EMAIL _____ CELL NUMBER: _____

CHURCH NAME _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

ADDRESS _____

If you are not the pastor, have you discussed this application with your pastor? _____

CANDIDATE'S NAME _____

EMAIL _____ CELL NUMBER: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

ADDRESS _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

LAST FOUR DIGITS OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER XXX-XX- _____

LIVES WITH: BOTH PARENTS MOTHER FATHER ON THEIR OWN

CHURCH LIAISON'S NAME _____

EMAIL _____ CELL NUMBER _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

1. Have you reviewed the Ascending Lights website (www.ascendinglights.org) and watched the video found there?

2. How well do you know this candidate?

3. How well do you know this candidate's immediate family? How would you describe the family's ability to provide a supportive environment for the candidate's college studies?

4. Describe the type(s) and extent of Christian service that the candidate is presently performing in your church. Include how long he/she has been involved in each ministry.

5. Tell us why you would trust this candidate with leadership responsibility in your church now or in the future.

6. **Please comment** on the candidate's potential strengths and weaknesses in each of these areas (You may need to have a conversation with the candidate to complete this section):

Academic: Each participant values education and does the best that they can do in each class and makes the best progress they can toward completing their academic program.

1. Completes assigned schoolwork on time.
2. Attends every class session.
3. Addresses concerns and asks questions of instructors as necessary.
4. Meets with each instructor at least once each month.
5. Asks for help when needed.
6. Sets goals to motivate themselves.
7. Plans at least two hours of study for each unit of coursework.
8. Completes any extra credit offered by the instructor each week.

Spiritual: Each participant develops the deepest possible faith and relationship to God through Christ.

1. Participates in spiritual formation opportunities, such as:
 - a. Meets regularly with a qualified spiritual director.
 - b. Regularly spends time in reflection and journaling.
 - c. Regularly participates in a small group Bible study.
 - d. Regularly participates in retreats and Quiet Days.
2. Spends time in prayer and Bible reading each day.
3. Participates in agreed upon Christian service.
4. Participates in worship in a Christian community at least once each week.
5. Seeks discernment and direction from God.

Life Skills: Each participant develops the strongest possible habits and skills in their occupational and family lives.

1. Has some successful employment experience.
2. Returns telephone calls and emails within 24 hours.
3. Sets goals and accomplishes them.
4. Addresses any behavioral dependencies.
5. Arrives on time prepared to work.
6. Communicates their needs and desires effectively to family members, supervisors, and mentors.
7. Develops healthy boundaries and limits with family members, friends, church members, and co-workers.
8. Follows through on commitments.
9. Sets and implements personal priorities.
10. Asks for help when needed.
11. Manages their physical and medical needs.
12. How motivated do you believe the student is to go to college at this time?

Leadership: Each participant becomes the most effective leader they can be.

1. Participates as a leader in at least one group.
2. Inspires confidence from others.
3. Maintains a balanced perspective.

7. What, if any, circumstances in this candidate's life might potentially interfere with his or her successfully completing community college and the Ascending Lights program?

8. Overall, how would you rate the likelihood that this candidate will successfully complete community college and the Ascending Lights program? Please explain your answer.

9. Is this candidate a U.S. Citizen, Permanent Resident, or DACA recipient? (Please attach a copy or photo of the candidate's birth certificate or passport, Green Card or valid DACA Form I797.

10. Has this candidate successfully completed high school? _____

IF YES: (Please attach a copy or photo of the candidate's unofficial high school transcript, AND unofficial community college transcript if they are already attending community college.)

IF NO: Please indicate when you expect the candidate to graduate _____
(Please attach a copy of the candidate's unofficial high school transcript to date)

11. Please attach a copy or photo of the candidate's **and/or** candidate's parent/s' most recent income tax return (The first page of the 1040 or 1040 Easy form), W-2 Form, or other proof of income. TO ENSURE THE CANDIDATE MEETS OUR INCOME CRITERIA, PLEASE REFER TO THE APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AT THE END OF THIS FORM FOR INCOME CRITERIA.

12. Has the candidate submitted a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or CADAA (California Dream Act Application) in the last 12 months? Completion of a FAFSA or CADAA is required in order to begin receiving Ascending Lights benefits.

13. Does the candidate have approximately two years of community college studies ahead before he/she earns a degree or certificate and **is able to graduate by the Summer of 2025?**

14. Is this candidate presently employed at the church for more than 20 hours a week, OR a relative of a present or former student, OR of a church employee who is working at the church more than 20 hours per week?

SIGNED _____ Date _____
(PASTOR/CHURCH MINISTER)

Please forward this application and supporting documents to:

Anne Lobsinger
ASCENDING LIGHTS LEADERSHIP NETWORK
2310 Riverdale Ave
LOS ANGELES, CA 90031

You may also send them by email to atlobsinger@gmail.com or by fax to 323-223-8116

www.ascendinglights.org

PLEASE SAVE A COPY (INCLUDING DOCUMENTS) FOR YOUR FILES.

Ascending Lights Leadership Network Application Instructions

Contact Information: Communication is fundamental to every aspect of the Ascending Lights program. Please include as much current contact information as possible.

Question 1: Ascending Lights' website at www.ascendinglights.org includes valuable background information about the program and requirements. A short video gives a good overview of who we are and what we do.

Questions 2 & 3: These answers help us to decide on the best questions to ask when interviewing the applicant and parents.

Question 4: Ascending Lights seeks candidates who are serving as Christian leaders in their churches, and who have the potential to become more effective leaders in the future. Candidates need to have served in their churches for a minimum of one year. Their service activity must be in addition to their time attending regular Sunday worship.

Question 5: Successful candidates have at least 1-year of history of leadership in Christian service in their churches. Please include any additional information which would be helpful to our understanding your candidate's application.

Question 6: Ascending Lights has developed goals for participants in the areas of academics, spirituality, life skills, and leadership. Please comment on your candidate's potential strengths and weaknesses in each of these four areas and include any information which would be helpful to our understanding of your candidate's current situation. (You may need to have a conversation with the candidate in order to complete the four areas of this question)

Question 7: Participants in Ascending Lights often face non-academic challenges to completing community college and our program. These challenges often come from family, social, medical or their work situations.

Question 8: Please give us your overall assessment of your candidate's motivation and the likelihood they will complete community college and our program.

Question 9: Ascending Lights seeks candidates who are U.S. Citizens, Permanent Residents, or in possession of a valid DACA Form I797. Please attach a copy of the candidate's birth certificate, or passport, Green Card, or valid DACA Form I797.

Question 10: Ascending Lights awards scholarship to candidates who have graduated from high school. When considering a candidate, it is helpful to know as much as we can about their historical academic performance. Proof of graduation is required in order to begin receiving benefits.

Question 11: Financial need is established by comparing the total of parent(s) and candidates incomes with the qualifying criteria:

- Living independently and receiving TANF, SSI, or General Relief; or
- Living with parents receiving TANF, SSI, or General Relief; or
- Having total household annual income in following ranges (see next page):

Single person living independently: \$42,800
2 Person family: \$49,000
3 Person family: \$55,200
4 Person family: \$61,400
5 Person Family:\$68,700

- Exceptions to these criteria are possible on a case-by-case basis.

Question 12: In order for a candidate to be considered for a scholarship with Ascending Lights, all students (including seniors in high school) must complete a FASFA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or CADAA (California Dream Act Application). Candidates are required to submit to us a copy of the FAFSA or CADAA Confirmation page in order to begin receiving scholarship benefits.

Question 13: The Ascending Lights leadership development program requires a minimum of two years to complete. Our funding sources expect that our students will be with us long enough to successfully complete our curriculum.

Benefits will end when the student has earned an Associate's Degree or a Certificate of Completion in their chosen field from the college, or at the end of the Summer Semester of 2025, whichever comes first.

In the event that the student has not earned a Certificate or Associate's Degree by the end of the Summer Semester of 2025, they will receive a one-time grant to cover their expected future benefit costs. Mentoring benefits will not be provided beyond the Summer, 2025 semester.

Question 14: Ascending Lights is not able to accept full-time church employees, or relatives of present or former students, pastors, or of full-time church employees.

Please send any questions you might have to:
Anne Lobsinger, atlobsinger@gmail.com
or call her at 323-356-0689.