

**March 16, 2005**

# The Augusta Chronicle

## Effort hopes to make leaders out of students

By Greg Rickabaugh | *Staff Writer*

A program for rising juniors in Richmond County schools will help develop the leaders of tomorrow using events such as a ropes course and criminal justice day.

The program, called Youth Leadership Richmond County, will allow potential leaders to take an active role in their community, according to Steven Kendrick, the leadership class chairman and a member of the leadership board of directors.

"Richmond County students deserve a program like this," Mr. Kendrick said. "Several years ago, the students of Richmond County had a similar program, but the costs caused it to be discontinued. A partnership between the Richmond County Board of Education, Leadership Augusta, and the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce was able to develop and financially support the program this time."

The program is accepting applications through March 25 and is open to all Richmond County public, private or home-schooled sophomores who will be juniors by Sept. 1.

Students in the public school system should contact their guidance counselor for applications. There will be an application and interview selection process. Each school can submit up to five names to Leadership Augusta for consideration.

Applications must include two letters of recommendation and a permission form signed by the student's parents and principal. The program will place priority on academic, geographic and racial diversity.

Home-schooled students should call a Leadership Augusta representative at (706) 821-1300 for an application.

Student selection will take place in May. For more information, visit [www.ylrc.org](http://www.ylrc.org).

Reach Greg Rickabaugh at (706) 828-3851 or [greg.rickabaugh@augustachronicle.com](mailto:greg.rickabaugh@augustachronicle.com).