Plan for the 2027 Hill Country Leadership Institute

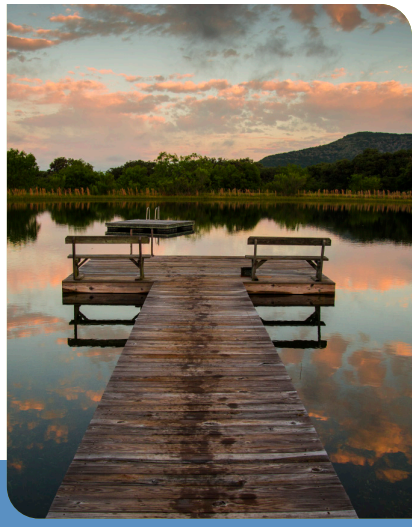
- The educational program will run for ten months—from January through October 2027.
- We will gather in person every third Thursday of the month at unique locations across the region.
- The first gathering is set for January 21, 2027, from 9am to 2pm at Selah Bamberger Ranch Preserve in Blanco County.
- Maximum enrollment is 20 to deliver a personalized enriching experience.
- One full-day retreats is included for on-the-land learning in spring and fall.
- Brief topics to be offered as virtual lunch-and-learn sessions.
- Scheduled "office hours" are planned for deeper learning and one-on-one discussions.
- Breakout groups will be created to dive deeper on topics of interest.
- Ongoing engagement for three years beyond the conclusion of the program is encouraged and supported.
- Sliding scale enrollment from $500 to $1,000 depending on size of population served.

Core curriculum topics

- **Water infrastructure:** Long-range thinking about drinking water supply for our growing population. Sustainable and innovative wastewater solutions. Protecting pristine streams. One Water strategies. Regional water planning processes.
- **Development oversight:** The costs of sprawl vs planning for density close to existing infrastructure. Conservation development. Low-impact development. Development agreements. Special purpose districts.
- **Groundwater:** Groundwater management. Loss of springs. Working with groundwater conservation districts and understanding their Chapter 36 authority. Groundwater Management Areas and "Desired Future Conditions."
- **Planning:** Extents and limits of county authority. Municipal planning tools. Thoroughfare plans. Habitat conservation plans. Comprehensive planning and regional planning opportunities.
- **Land stewardship and conservation:** The land/water connection in the Hill Country. Private land stewardship opportunities. Conservation easements. Public funding for conservation.

Additional focus areas

Public health	Broadband infrastructure	Night skies
Workforce development	Heritage protection	Tourism
Workforce housing	Water quality	Working with TCEQ
Economic development	Incompatible land use	Industrial activities



The 2027 class of the Hill Country Leadership Institute is forming now!

Application and additional information are available at hillcountryalliance.org/leadershipinstitute

Applications are encouraged on or before November 15, 2026

For more information, contact Leah Cuddeback, leah@hillcountryalliance.org

The Hill Country Leadership Institute is a program of the Hill Country Alliance.

Hill Country Alliance is a 501c3 non-profit established in 2004, bringing together a diverse coalition of partners to preserve the open spaces, starry night skies, clean and abundant waters, and unique character of the Texas Hill Country.

hill country alliance