



Athens-Clarke County Citizens Government Academy

March 25 - May 20, 2020

The Athens-Clarke County Citizens Government Academy is a nine-week program designed to offer residents the opportunity to learn how their local government works and how they can become more involved.

Participants will learn about the relationships between the residents, Mayor & Commission, and local government departments. They will also learn how and why projects are implemented and the manner in which services are provided, as well as how they coincide with the Mayor and Commissions' goals, objectives, and strategic commitments.

Participants will receive an overview of the budget process, public safety departments, environmental stewardship, and many other responsibilities and functions of the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government. Each class will be conducted by department representatives and will provide both an informational and interactive learning approach.

Citizens Government Academy

Join the Mayor, Manager, and staff for a learning and networking opportunity. The Athens-Clarke County Unified Government (ACCGov) is offering a weekly class for residents to learn about local government through first-hand exposure to the wide range of government functions, services, activities, and issues. The Citizens Government Academy will take place each Wednesday evening from March 25, 2020 through May 20, 2020 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. **Graduation date to be determined.**

Goal:

Give residents an opportunity to learn how to access their government and familiarize them with the services, functions, and activities of ACCGov. Additionally, the Citizens Government Academy will help residents gain a better understanding about how to become involved in local government and enhance their ability to communicate effectively with local government officials.

The program is structured around ACCGov's six strategic commitments:

- **Informed and Engaged Community**
- **Accountable and Responsive Government**
- **Shared Prosperity**
- **Healthy, Livable, and Sustainable Athens-Clarke County**
- **Transportation, Mobility, and Connectivity**
- **Safe and Prepared Community**

Benefits:

- Provide an opportunity for residents to learn about the Athens-Clarke County government through first-hand experience and gain exposure to the wide range of government functions, services, activities, and issues.
- Create informed residents who may wish to become involved in community activities and volunteer for Commission-appointed boards, authorities, commissions, and task forces.
- Obtain feedback from residents regarding governmental programs and services.

Class Size:

The academy is limited to 25 students.

Eligibility:

The Citizens Government Academy is open to Athens-Clarke County residents over the age of 18.

Meetings:

Sessions take place each Wednesday night for nine weeks (March 25 – May 20) from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at various locations throughout Athens-Clarke County.

Informed and Engaged Community

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

**Athens-Clarke County Government History & Organization
Commission Chamber, City Hall
301 College Avenue, Athens, GA 30601**

- Meet the Mayor and Elected Officials
- Meet the Manager of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County
- Purpose of the Citizens Government Academy
- Brief History of Athens-Clarke County & Unification
- Role of the Mayor & Commission
- Role of the Manager
- Form of Government
- Organizational Overview

Accountable and Responsive Government

Wednesday, April 1, 2020

**Show Me The Money: Finance Department
Satula Avenue Building Training Room
375 Satula Avenue, Athens, GA 30601**

- Overview of the Budget Process
- Overview of the ACCGov Operating and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budgets
- Revenue Base

Shared Prosperity

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

**More Than Just Jobs: Economic Development Department
Chamber of Commerce Board Room
246 West Hancock Avenue, Athens, GA 30601**

- Overview of Economic Development
- Economic Development Exercise
- Business Retention/Expansion

Healthy, Livable, and Sustainable Athens-Clarke County

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

**Managing Solid Waste Materials for Your Safety, Health and Future: Solid Waste
Department
725 Hancock Industrial Way, Athens, GA 30605**

- Overview of Solid Waste Services
- Tour of the Landfill
- Tour of the Recovered Materials Processing Facility

Wednesday, April 22, 2020
A Playful Community: Leisure Services Department
Memorial Park
293 Gran Ellen Drive, Athens, GA 30606

- Overview of Leisure Services
- Service Offerings
- History and Importance of Bear Hollow Zoo
- Intro to Athens Creative Theater

Wednesday, May 6, 2020
Water Is Life: Public Utilities Department
Middle Oconee Water Reclamation Facility
400 Will Hunter Road, Athens, GA 30606

- The Business of Municipal Water Works
- Tour Water Reclamation Facility

Transportation, Mobility, and Connectivity

Wednesday, April 29, 2020
Follow the Yellow Brick Road: Transportation and Public Works Department
Planning Auditorium
120 W. Dougherty Street, Athens, GA 30601

- Roadways, Bikeways, and Walkways
- Traffic Control and Guidance Systems
- Public Stormwater Collection and Conveyance Systems

Safe and Prepared Community

Wednesday, May 13, 2020
It's Hot In Here: Fire & Emergency Services Department

Fire Department Training Center
155 Paradise Blvd, Athens, GA 30607

- Introduction to the Fire Department
- Training Exercise and Demonstration
- Overview of the Emergency Management Office

Wednesday, May 20, 2020
More Than Handcuffs: Police Department
Police Department Headquarters
3035 Lexington Road, Athens, GA 30605

- Overview of Police Department
- Community Oriented Policing
- Police Simulation

Citizens' Government Academy Application

Deadline: Friday, March 6, 2019 or once 25 participants have been selected

Apply online at www.accgov.com/cga

Eligibility Requirements:

- Over the age of 18
- Reside within Athens-Clarke County

For more information, call 706-613-3020. If you do not receive a confirmation email after submitting your application, please email Josh Edwards at josh.edwards@accgov.com.

General Information

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

Home Address: _____

Business Address (af applicable): _____

Home Telephone: _____ Mobile Telephone _____

Email Address: _____

Optional Information

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Return application to:

Mailed:
Josh Edwards
Manager's Office
P.O. Box 1868, Athens, GA 30603

Email: josh.edwards@accgov.com

Hand Delivered:
City Hall, 301 College Avenue, Suite 301, Athens, GA

Why are you interested in participating in the Citizens Government Academy?

What do you hope to gain or learn from participating in Citizens Government Academy?

Are you currently involved with any community or volunteer organizations? If so, please list.

I, the undersigned applicant, certify that the foregoing information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Citizens Government Academy
RELEASE FROM LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

I, _____, being 18 years of age or older, in consideration of my participation in the Citizens' Government Academy conducted by the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government (ACCGov) and my being allowed to accompany members of ACCGov in its buildings and properties during the various activities with the Citizens Government Academy, do hereby agree as follows:

a) That I release ACCGov, its departments, and its agents and employees from any liability to myself and my heirs as a result of any damage to my property, injury to myself, or loss of my life sustained as a result of my participation or my accompanying said persons or properties on the above activities.

b) That I agree to hold ACCGov, its departments, and its agents and employees harmless for any loss sustained by them as a result of any injury or damage caused by myself and I agree to indemnify ACCGOV, and its agents or employees for any loss occurred thereby.

c) That I grant permission to ACCGov, its departments, and its agents and employees to use my image, photograph or video in official ACCGov publications, communications, and presentations, including, but not limited to, inclusion on the ACCGov website and social media. I also understand that once my image is posted online, any computer user can download or capture the images.

Signed on the ___ day of _ _____ 2020_____

Signature: _____