



Emerge: Women Leaders for a Democratic Future

Program Information and Overview

THE PROGRAM

The Emerge Oregon Program (the “Program”) is a non-profit political training program for Democratic women from Oregon who demonstrate an interest in running for elected office. The Program is designed to:

- Give a thorough overview of the political process and what it takes to run a successful and effective campaign;
- Practice and strengthen political leadership skills such as public speaking, fundraising, and campaigning;
- Provide direction on how to develop a network of political supporters; and
- Provide an opportunity to meet women who hold elected offices in Oregon.

Past examples of speakers in the program have included: Speaker Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Senators Hillary Clinton and Barbara Boxer, U.S. Congresswomen Ellen Tauscher, Barbara Lee, Jackie Speier and Lynne Woolsey, San Francisco District Attorney Kamala Harris, and many others.

The 2009 Program will meet once a month on weekends from April 2009 to October 2009, excluding August 2009. Exact Program dates will be announced in March 2009.

The success of the Emerge Oregon Program depends upon commitment to the Program’s entire schedule by each participant. Over the six-month period, approximately 70 Program hours are scheduled. Some time outside of regularly scheduled seminars will be necessary for seminar preparation. Emerge participants are also required to volunteer for a minimum of 10 hours during the seven-month Program on a political campaign of their choosing.

Tuition for the Emerge Oregon Program is \$250*. Tuition offsets the costs of Emerge Oregon’s out-of pocket costs for providing the weekend training sessions.

****Emerge believes that individual financial circumstances should NOT be a barrier to participation in the Emerge Program. Partial and full financial aid may be awarded after admission to the Program.***

SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS

Emerge Oregon seeks bright, self-motivated women who are committed to effective political leadership and are committed to run for elective office.

Criteria for selection to the Program include:

- evidence of political leadership experience or potential, and meaningful involvement in workplace or community
- interest in running for political office
- demonstrated ability to bring together disparate groups to achieve a goal
- ability and desire to build effective networks
- ability to articulate a personal political vision
- demonstrated ability to inspire others
- commitment to full participation and attendance requirements of the trainings

Emerge Oregon will select between 20-25 women from Oregon who meet the above criteria and who we believe have the potential to be political leaders.

Emerge embraces diversity and encourages applications from all women regardless of age, race, color, national or ethnic origin, marital status, religious affiliation, sexual orientation or physical abilities.

Deadline

Completed **original** applications plus five copies (for a total of six copies all together) for the Program must be sent to Emerge Oregon and postmarked no later than **February 23, 2009**. **Do not use staples** for any part of the original **or** copies of the applications. Please see checklist for full application components.

Mail documents to:

Emerge Oregon
PO Box 40132
Portland, OR 97240

*****Highly recommended to send application with a delivery confirmation or tracking number so you can ensure your application arrives on time.***

Interviews

Emerge Oregon will review completed applications and select finalists for the Program. Finalists will be invited to attend an interview at Emerge during the first weekend in March 2009. From these interviews, the 2009 Program members will be selected.



2009 Oregon Program Application

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: _____
 Home Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone: _____
 Best e-mail to contact you: _____
 Occupation (current profession, student, etc.): _____
 Business Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone: _____
 Cell phone (optional): _____

Please attach a professional-quality resume of no more than two pages.

FINANCIAL AID

If accepted, will you be requesting financial aid for your tuition (please circle)? Yes No

VOTING HISTORY

Are you a registered Democrat? Yes No
 Did you vote in the last two Democratic Primary Elections? Yes No
 If you did not vote, please explain: _____

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS

Please answer the following required questions:

1. Please describe your leadership role in a project where you were responsible for achieving a goal and motivating others to achieve that goal. (750 words or less)
2. Please tell us why you would like to run for elected office and why you consider yourself a compelling candidate. (750 words or less)
3. Please list your recent and current involvement with public, community, and/or political organizations.

Please restate the essay question at the beginning of each essay.

*Note that a **\$35** non-refundable application fee must be submitted by all applicants to the Program. Any financial aid awarded will not cover this application fee, nor does the application fee apply to tuition if accepted.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Your file will be considered complete when all of the items listed below are received by Emerge Oregon. Please do not submit additional letters of recommendation or any supplemental materials.

1. Completed original application form (include all pages), as well as written responses to the Political Engagement questions, and **five copies** of this completed application (**all with no staples**).
 - a. **Note: send one full original copy. For the subsequent five copies, REMOVE pages 1, 2, 6, and 7.**
2. Resume (no more than **two** pages).
3. Two letters of recommendation, e-mailed directly to Emerge Oregon by your references (**see recommendation letter page for more information**).
4. **\$35** non-refundable application fee (check is payable to Emerge Oregon).

FOR OUR INFORMATION

To assist Emerge Oregon in improving its program recruitment, please state how you learned about the Emerge Oregon Program. Please be as specific as possible (may be a combination of outreach means).

~ Colleague: _____

~ Emerge Alumnae: _____

~ Emerge Board/Advisory Board Member: _____

~ Political Organization: _____

~ Elected Official: _____

~ Publication: _____

~ Emerge America Website (www.emergeamerica.org); _____

~ E-mail Announcement from: _____

~ Information Session: _____

~ Professor: _____

~ Other: _____

REFERENCES

Emerge Oregon requires two letters of reference as a part of your application. Please forward the reference forms to individuals familiar with your leadership abilities and/or your commitment to political and community activities. Only the first two reference letters will be reviewed by the selection committee, any additional letters received after the first two will not be considered.

Please instruct references to e-mail letters directly to Emerge at oregoninfo@emergeamerica.org with the applicant's name in the subject line.

Reference letter emails are due no later than COB on February 23, 2009.

**** Accepted formats for the reference letters include: in the body of the email, Word documents, and/or PDFs; please, no more than **two** pages.*

It is the **applicant's** responsibility to confirm that the Emerge Oregon office has received your letters of reference prior to the Application deadline. **Applications will not be considered complete unless they include two letters of reference.**

REFERENCE 1

Name: _____

Title/Organization: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone (day): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

REFERENCE 2

Name: _____

Title/Organization: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone (day): _____

E-mail Address: _____

APPLICANT RECOMMENDATION FORM

Name of Applicant: _____

Instructions to the Applicant: Upon receipt of this form, Emerge Oregon may contact your references by telephone for verification purposes. By signing below we ask that you acknowledge and agree that we have your permission to contact your references and that you are waiving any right you may have to inspect the letters of recommendation.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Send below to those writing the recommendation for you:

Instructions to Reference:

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- Practice and strengthen political leadership skills such as public speaking, fundraising, and campaigning;
- Provide direction on how to develop a network of political supporters; and
- Provide a forum to meet women who hold elected offices in Oregon.

Detailed information on the Emerge Program can be found at www.emergeamerica.org.

Thank you for writing a recommendation letter for the Emerge Oregon Program applicant named above. We seek insight into the applicant's commitment to the political process. We appreciate your candid opinion of the applicant.

To be successful in the program, applicants must possess the following:

- evidence of political leadership experience or potential, and meaningful involvement in workplace or community
- interest in running for political office
- demonstrated ability to bring together disparate groups to achieve a goal
- ability and desire to build effective networks
- ability to articulate a personal political vision
- demonstrated ability to inspire others
- commitment to full participation and attendance requirements of the trainings

Please answer the following questions and include your daytime telephone number.

1. How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?
2. Please describe the traits, skills, and experiences that help make the applicant well-suited for elected office. Please provide examples.
3. How well do you think the applicant meets the requirements cited above? Please provide examples.

**** Accepted formats for the recommendation letters include: in the body of the email, Word documents, and/or PDFs; please, no more than **two** pages.*

Please email your recommendation letter by **February 23, 2009** directly to:
oregoninfo@emergeamerica.org.

DECLARATION ON APPLYING

In submitting this application, I affirm that:

I have reviewed the entire application and, to the best of my belief and knowledge, the information I have given is true and accurate. If selected for the Emerge Oregon Program, I will use the skills and knowledge gained to advance opportunities for Democratic women in the political process and interests of the Democratic Party and its candidates. Except for circumstances beyond my control, if selected, I will complete the Program in its entirety. Emerge Oregon may dismiss me from the Program if my performance proves unsatisfactory due to lack of interest or ability, unsatisfactory attendance, progress or conduct, violation of confidences shared during the program, or for any reason deemed by Emerge Oregon to be detrimental to the overall program.

Name of Applicant (please print): _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

Date: _____

****I understand that if accepted into the program, my attendance is mandatory at all sessions, except in case of emergency.**

Name of Applicant (please print): _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

Date: _____

Application Deadline: All applications must be postmarked no later than **February 23, 2009.**

Please mail your completed application to:

Emerge Oregon
PO Box 40132
Portland, OR 97240