

Leadership Aurora 2021 - 2022



Dedicated....Loyal....Like No Other!



Hello LA Class of 2021 - 2022!

Throughout the history of the Leadership Aurora program, leaders have taken the opportunity to make a difference by giving back to the community in which they live and work – and now it is our turn!

There are varieties of underfunded community projects that need attention and Community Day shed some light on just a few. As we begin to narrow our focus on what our project(s) is going to be, I wanted to remind us all of the LA Mission and Goals:

Mission: Educate and prepare community leaders who are committed to shaping Aurora's future.

Goals: Develop an awareness of the Aurora community; Create a network of informed leaders; Encourage greater community involvement

I am sure whatever it is that we land on we will make a difference! We share in a passion for community involvement and believe we will live up to the mission and goals of what makes Leadership Aurora great!

I look forward to creating magic and the JADOO spirit of our cohort.

Best regards,
Nycci

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The Future of
Leadership



In the Air Force, the higher you go in rank, the fewer people you find. For the enlisted, there is only one rank higher than senior master sergeant, so the standards are set extremely high. “Seniors” are key, experienced, operational leaders expected to be the connector and the bridge creating the most effective team to accomplish the mission. Promotion to senior master sergeant is the most difficult enlisted promotion to attain in the Air Force. Less than 10 percent of eligible master sergeants are selected for promotion to

senior master sergeant in most years.

Leah Fishman joined the Air National Guard in February 2004 in Sioux City, Iowa. She completed Basic Training, Technical School and then received a Bachelor’s degree in Communication Studies from Iowa State University in 2008. She worked on the Counterdrug Task Force and deployed twice to the Middle East. In 2015, she transferred to the Colorado Air National Guard and was recently hired as the Superintendent of Services.

On October 28th, 2021, Leah was promoted to Senior Master Sergeant in the United States Air Force. During her ceremony, her Captain mentioned that only three percent of the enlisted workforce held this honor. An honor that takes, on average, 20-years to obtain. Leah’s work and dedication to her colleagues and nation started 17-years ago when a friend’s dad talked to each of them about what enlisting could look like. It was an opportunity to not just serve her country, but to also work towards a college degree while gaining the life skills and experiences in and outside of the US. Traveling was just an added benefit but one that Leah fully embraced – remember our fun fact about each other?

Below is a Q&A that will give you all an insight into the newly minted Senior Master Sergeant Leah Fishman:

Q: What has been the most rewarding and/or challenging part of your journey thus far?

A: The most rewarding part is being in a position where people look up to you and being in a position where I can impact someone’s career. People are watching me and whatever I do or say has an impact on the type of environment and team dynamic I am trying to create. It has been rewarding but also comes with its challenges because I’m not perfect. I would say the most challenging part of this job is the work/life balance. The ops tempo never slows down. You have to be able to recognize when it is time to take time away from work and take care of yourself. I constantly encourage my people to understand how important it is to take care of yourself/family first. If I don’t take care of myself, I can’t give 110% at my job or to others. Self-care and managing stress is very important and I don’t think a lot of people talk about it or recognize/admit when they hit their max capacity. We have to take care of ourselves mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually in order to remain resilient and be mission ready.

Q: What are you looking forward to the most with this next chapter in your career?

A: I am excited to be in a position where I can have a positive impact on people’s careers. I am in a spot where I can make/force management decisions that impact the growth, opportunity, and development of my airmen. I also get excited because the longer I

am in this role the more relationships I will build, which means more trust gets developed in those relationships. In a leadership role, it takes time for people to figure out if they can trust you. I’m excited to get to that point to prove to people that I am a trusted leader and that everyone in my organization is valued, belongs and brings a unique skill set to the table.

Q: What has been the best and not so ideal places you’ve visited with the Air Force?

A: Some of the best places I visited: Dubai and ski indoors at the Mall of the Emirates. I also went to Jordan to network with our state partners (Jordanian Air Force) and talk about development and growth of our enlisted force. We visited Petra, the Dead Sea and saw the baptismal site of Jesus. I had the opportunity to live in Germany for 6 months in 2019 working for a General on Ramstein Air Force Base. Some not so great places I visited was sleeping at an abandoned school on a cot in Washington DC supporting President Obama’s inauguration and sleeping on a cot at field training in Florida worried if there was going to be scorpions in my boots when I woke up.

Q: Anything you’d like to add that wasn’t covered?

A: I am very thankful for my military career. When I went to Basic Training in 2004 I was convinced I would get out after my first 6 years. The military has a way of allowing you to grow and recognize your strengths/weaknesses in so many ways. I’m thankful I chose this as my career path after college.

Congratulations to Senior Master Sergeant Leah Fishman for accomplishing such a major milestone in your career!



Honoring our Community Champion

Dr. Anne Keke is a volunteer at African Leadership Group (ALG) in Aurora, Colorado.

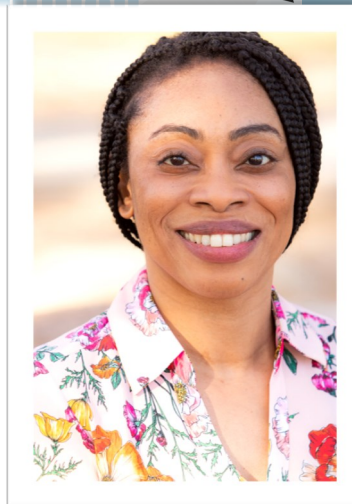
During the Pandemic, Anne Keke volunteered at the African Leadership Group, working diligently to assist those in need. Anne drove around Aurora every Wednesday and Saturday, taking food to immigrants in the community.

While out in the community, Anne assisted others that she ran into that were in desperate need of assistance and had no resources or food available to them. Despite Anne's complex

and busy schedule, she was always present to help our immigrant families in need.

Anne also played a major role in the facilitation of the vaccine clinic that was hosted by the African Leadership Group.

Anne was recognized at The Aurora Chamber of Commerce Community Champions event on Oct. 15, 2021 for the incredible work she does in the immigrant community every day. She continuously ensures sure that immigrants in the community get the help they need during one of the most challenging times of our lives.



We would like to thank Anne for her kindness, generosity, and dedication to help others in need!

YOU make a difference!



BRECKENRIDGE RETREAT

We made it!

After all of the emails, submitting of paperwork, taking a test for our Insights, and last but not least paying for the class. We finally met up at the highly touted Beaver Run Resort to learn (if we haven't already guessed it) about getting a teamwork environment lesson for a multitude of personalities. Pretty sure we found out who some of the characters are!

Day 1- As the individuals made their way to the retreat, there was definitely the look of the newbie first day of school vibe that quickly moved to being invited in with other classmates. We learned about our individual traits from our Insights testing, discovered our class members traits, and then paired up with our polar opposite as our accountability partner to assist with ensuring that we are meeting expectations throughout the class.

Day 2- There was nothing like diving down into how someone acts and who they are by Franco. This was a day filled with fun, games, and team building activities. This day truly opened up the class and showed us who we really are down inside. Big or small; introverted or extroverted; ageless; this day

introduced us to each other's strengths and weaknesses.

Day 3- Experiencing who is representing our community and how they're instituted with the members of the Chamber of Commerce. Very insightful and encouraging views from our leaders from their experience and what they have done for us. Followed by the election of our class leader to provide us guidance and communication across our team. Hooray Nycci! We concluded with our bags and information in hand for our next venture.

From the nightly socials to the second nightly socials, we came together as a group of individuals and gelled as class quickly. Moving forward and anticipating our next meeting as a class.



Volunteer Opportunities

~ [Toys for Tots](#)

~ [Colorado Freedom Memorial](#)

~ [Colfax Community Network \(CCN\) Holiday Celebration](#)

Dec. 18th - 10:30 am to 4:30 pm at Colfax Community Network, 1585 N. Kingston St, Aurora CO 80010

This annual Holiday Celebration is an important event for families that live at Comitis Crisis Center and in the Colfax Community. Families can come in to receive toys and gifts for their family, wrapping services, cookies and treats, festive music, and a visit from Santa.

~ [Aurora Connect:](#)

Summer 2022 at Aurora Day Resource Center, 13387 E. 19th Pl, Aurora CO 80045

This is a one day event that provides wrap around services, support, and resources for people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. Resources provided may include (but are not limited to):

Free services such as haircuts, dental care, hygiene products, a warm meal, clothes, shoes, backpacks, etc. Assistance with the organization, set up, and volunteering during this event.

They always have needs for hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, lotion, deodorant. In the winter, we always have a need for gloves, emergency blankets, caps, socks, hand warmers, chap stick, Kleenex, larger supply needs: belts, backpacks, sleeping bags, shoes and boots. towels, sheets, and blankets.



Community Day Explorations

Would you like to learn more about the different organizations that each of the teams visited on Community Day?

Click on the links below to learn more about these non-profit organizations....

[Adams Co. Workforce and Development Center](#)

[Aurora Youth Options](#)

[Boys Hope Girls Hope](#)

[Comitis Crisis Center](#)

[DAVA](#)

[Day Resource Center](#)

[Downtown Aurora Visual Arts \(DAVA\)](#)

[Juvenile Assessment Center](#)

[The Salvation Army Aurora](#)

[Corps](#)



Community Day opens hearts, and minds of L.A. class

What do you get when 30 plus leaders scour the city to connect with organizations looking to make a difference in the lives of Aurora's residents? A 'Community Day' worth shouting about!

Recently, the 2022 Leadership Aurora class assembled for a day of learning and adventure when they explored a host of non-profits—Boys Hope Girls Hope, Day Resource Center, Aurora Youth Options and many more—to familiarize themselves with their line of work and better understand the reason why such groups exist within the

context of the Aurora community. Class members were organized into groups led by Leadership Aurora board members to learn about the various organizations and used the last hour of the day to present their findings to the class. Much of the share-out included information about the purpose and mission of each organization, who they serve, challenges they face and how they use their budget to make the magic happen.

Thanks to the abundance of information, class members walked away with ideas of how to formulate projects to help each of these organizations in various ways to assist them in sustaining their programs that affect so many lives in our community.

Aurora Public Schools FOUNDATION

APS Foundation Gala brings community together to celebrate students Leadership Aurora's Community Explorations are just one way that class members can use their time to investigate the plethora of local nonprofits doing work to improve the lives and outcomes of the city's residents. One of those opportunities presented itself in the form of the Aurora Public Schools Foundation's ninth annual Relentless Gala.

Held at the Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center in early October, the gala was a night of celebration, inspiration, and relentless support of APS students and their futures. Community members were

out in full force to support the event and help raise nearly \$400,000 to provide the necessary resources Aurora's students need to shape successful futures. Fundraising efforts were highlighted by a \$100,000 donation from The Aurora Highlands housing development group.

For more information about the APS Foundation and how you can support its mission, visit educateaurora.org.

"It is literally true that you can succeed best and quickest by helping others to succeed." – Napoleon Hill

Community

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Active Shooter Incident Simulation

The Aurora Fire Department is looking for volunteers to serve as victims and distractions during mass casualty incident simulations. Volunteers can select a morning shift (8-noon) or an afternoon shift (1-5) and will play a vital role in the exercise. Ends Nov 23rd.

Aurora Center for Active Adults- General Volunteer Opportunities

The ACAA is a thriving community center for active adults ages 18+. They offer many recreational opportunities including fitness equipment & classes, social opportunities, Day Trips & Tours, Bingo, Special Events, Craft Programs, Lifetime Learning classes and Senior Services including Medicare classes. They are looking for some great volunteers!

Colfax Cleanup

We Are A-Town has an ongoing Aurora Cultural Arts District cleanup effort on the final Saturday of every month. *weather permitting. Community members will be cleaning up the sidewalks and curbs with the help of Waste Management and other sponsors! 8:30 am - 11:00 am for General neighborhood cleanup. Meet behind The People's Building 9995 E. Colfax Ave.

Snow Busters

Snow Busters is a volunteer-driven program designed to help community members in need with snow removal. The goals of this program are to remove snow from the public sidewalk within 24 hours from the end of snowfall of 2+ inches to help prevent falls, create a safe environment, and create a pathway for vulnerable community members to comply with snow removal regulations.

CALL TO ACTION

Looking to Spotlight someone on our class that has gone above and beyond or has a great milestone in their life that they have accomplished? Contact DeeDee to feature them in our newsletter.



Do you know of any volunteer opportunities or ways that people can help others throughout the holiday season and beyond?

Contact DeeDee at:

deedee.poole@aurorachamber.org

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller



[FieldhouseUSA](#) is a community based, multi-purpose indoor facility that offers a variety of sporting activities, and skill levels, where everyone has a place to play! With state-of-the-art facilities and unique sporting opportunities, FieldhouseUSA provides an experience of a lifetime for all who enter a facility.

Several of our class members came out to celebrate the grand opening of FieldhouseUSA where we enjoyed amazing food from various restaurants in the Cloud Kitchen, drinks, laughter, and great networking.

FieldhouseUSA Aurora features:

- Eight hardwood volleyball courts, which can be converted into four basketball courts; powered by Kraken Sports and offering year-round leagues, training programs, camps and more
- Air house Adventure Park - featuring a ropes course, zip zag coaster, extreme dodgeball, active play, mini golf course, and arcades
- Youth programs, all-sports camps, and lock-ins

- Program and conference space
- Birthday parties and corporate events
- Wrap around spectator bar seating with electrical outlets throughout
- Spacious parking
- Easy access to shopping, dining, and entertainment at Town Center Aurora.

FieldhouseUSA Aurora will host a wide range of events and tournaments, which cater to the select, club and recreational teams across the U.S.



Leadership Aurora Class

Planning Calendar (2021-2022)

MONTH LOCATION/NOTES	EVENT		DATES	TIMES
September	Pre-retreat reception	8	5:00-7:00 P.M.	Dry Dock North
	Class retreat	16-18	Varies	Beaver Run - Breckenridge
October	Community Session	21	7:45 A.M. -5:00 P.M.	Summit Event Center
November	City of Aurora Day	18	7:45 A.M.-5:00 P.M.	Aurora Municipal Center
December	Media Session	16	7:45 A.M.-5:00 P.M.	TBD
January	Education Session	20	7:45 A.M.-5:00 P.M.	TBD
February	Healthcare Session	17	7:45 A.M.-5:00 P.M.	TBD
March	Military Session	17	7:45 A.M.-5:00 P.M.	TBD
April	Police Session	21	7:45 A.M.-5:00 P.M.	TBD
May	Fire Session	19	7:45 A.M.-5:00 P.M.	TBD
June	Graduation Day	2	9:00 A.M-8:00 P.M.	Summit Event Center
	Golf Tournament	16	8:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.	Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Course

FUN FACTS



DID YOU KNOW?

What does Jadoo mean?

The name Jadoo is of Indian (Sanskrit) origin and means "Magic".

A submission from Philippines says the name Jadoo means "BEAUTIFUL AND GIFT OF GOD".

From The Century Dictionary.

noun In India, magic; conjurers' tricks; an exhibition of apparently supernatural performances.

From Wiktionary, Creative Commons Attribution/Share-Alike License.

noun Pakistan, India Magic, sorcery.

JADOO & @ CLAPS!



"None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful." – Mother Teresa