



Recommended Reading

Handout: Leadership in a Volunteer World

See page two of this Learning Module for the reading assignment to answer the following questions.

Name:

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NSDAR#:

1. Discuss what the five principles of Good Leadership mean to you.

2. Which principle would you like to further develop in yourself and why?

3. Is there a sixth principle that you would like to add and why?

4. What two Leadership No-Nos strike you as the most important and why?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

5. Do you have a favorite leadership quote? If so, please share it and discuss it. If not, pick one of the four quotes and discuss what it means to you.

6. Explore the following sites for your favorite George Washington quote. Please share and explain why you choose the quote you did.

- NotableQuotes: http://www.notable-quotes.com/w/washington_george.html
- goodreads: https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/4356.George_Washington
- George Washington's Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation.
<http://www.foundationsmag.com/civility.html>

Leadership in a Volunteer World

"Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself.
When you become a leader, success is all about growing others."

--*Jack Welch*

"The function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers."

--*Ralph Nader*

Principles of Good Leadership

1. Enthusiasm Breeds Enthusiasm!

If you are excited, others will feel it and want to be a part of it! You don't have to DO EVERYTHING in DAR – focus on what interests YOU – then just do it.

2. Trust Yourself

Self-doubt can undermine others' confidence and lead to loss of focus, enthusiasm, and trust in the overall mission.

3. Empower and Praise Others

A great leader knows and trusts the strengths of their volunteers and knows how to nurture self-confidence in them so that they can fully express their creative potential.

4. Communicate Effectively and Listen

Oftentimes we think we have communicated our desires, but really haven't. Be clear in communicating your expectations and set deadlines. Be sure to listen by being open and receptive to the attitudes, ideas, and opinions of others.

5. Understand the Old and Develop the New

Be willing to learn from your predecessors. If you are instituting changes, be sure you understand why it was done a certain way in the past so as not to reinvent the wheel in yet another way or create more problems because you didn't fully understand the issue you were trying to solve.

"A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent."

--*Douglas MacArthur*

Some Leadership No-Nos

- Give someone a job or task that doesn't make a difference
- Delegate a job and then take it back
- Fail to clearly explain what is expected
- Fail to have an end date
- Hold endless, pointless meetings with no meaningful purpose and no agenda
- Discuss the same topic or issue over and over and over again
- Do everything yourself
- Fail to follow through. Setting directions and providing goals are primary tools of a great leader, but if you don't follow through, volunteers quickly learn to ignore what you have to say.

"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong:
because someday in your life you will have been all of these."

--*George Washington*