

Empower, Inspire

Lead Rather Than Dictate

“Do this.” “Do that.” Who needs it? Not those you’re trying to lead!

Leadership isn’t bossiness.

It’s guiding, empowering, inspiring and motivating others.

It’s valuing what they have to say and what they can do and providing opportunities for them, too, to become leaders.

And leadership is about keeping everyone excited about your organization and committed to your goals.

How to Inspire Members

Leaders who can get others to be involved know:

▶ You must be upbeat and positive yourself

It’s not about prizes and incentives — for arriving first, bringing in the most new members, making the most signs

▶ Everyone should clap for every achievement

▶ Emails and text messages can cheer everyone on

▶ A pizza party to celebrate a milestone keeps everyone coming back

“TELL ME AND I WILL FORGET. SHOW ME AND I MAY REMEMBER. INVOLVE ME AND I WILL REMEMBER.”

—Chinese Proverb

“ACTION SPRINGS NOT FROM THOUGHT, BUT FROM A READINESS FOR RESPONSIBILITY.”

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

How to Empower Others

GOOD LEADERS KNOW:

▶ Don’t hand someone a bunch of envelopes to stuff. Instead, ask for help planning what points to cover in a meeting with the principal, and invite group members to go on the road.

▶ Don’t tell them to bring refreshments. Instead, ask them to contact the mayor for that special proclamation you’re after.

▶ Don’t tell someone to set up the podium. Instead, invite that club member to say a few words about a particular project.

Yes, stuffing envelopes, bringing refreshments and setting up the meeting room has to get done. Make sure everyone, including club leaders, rotate those tasks.

When you want members to feel like they count, give them meaningful opportunities to participate in your group.

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