

Leadership Qualities

Load Up on What Leaders Need

Heard the phrase, “born leader”? Don’t believe it. Good leaders learn and then practice their skills, just like everyone else.

True, there’s a boatload of skills that go into spelling “Leadership.”

They know:

REVIEW ONLY

LISTENING ▶ Everyone deserves their say. Good leaders share the floor and carefully consider what others suggest.

EXAMPLE ▶ Showing is always more powerful than telling, so your actions speak louder than words. Lead by example and model what you want others to do.

ATTITUDE ▶ Believing you and your group can accomplish something is the biggest part of the equation. Be positive, encouraging and optimistic. It’s catching!

DIALOGUE ▶ Anyone can talk at someone. It’s a special skill to make it a true give-and-take dialogue, a discussion that includes everyone and all points of view. Good leaders know the value of dialogue.

ENERGY ▶ Effective leaders are often described as tireless. Although you can get some rest, being energetic and enthusiastic will be a motivator and component in your success.

RESPONSIBILITY ▶ The buck stops here, good leaders know, meaning they’ve got to do what’s expected, keep their word and follow through every step of the way.

STANDARDS ▶ This one’s especially tough. You’ve got to raise the bar, rise to the occasion and go beyond the norm. Good leaders set and achieve high standards.

HUMILITY ▶ With all your success as a leader, shouldn’t you get to brag a bit? No. Good leaders give credit to the workers, volunteers, the whole team. Humble pie, you’ll find, is pretty tasty!

INTEGRITY ▶ With so many looking up to leaders, expectations are high. That’s where integrity comes in. Be true to yourself, your group, your cause. The highest ethics and truthfulness will serve you well.

PASSION ▶ Good leaders do more than care. They passionately care. They go the extra mile. And passion instills others to act and stay committed.

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