

Characteristics of a Leader

ToolTip #6
Mar. 2003



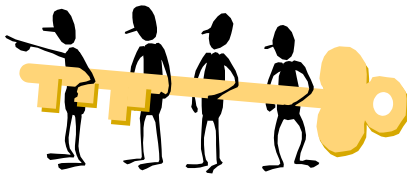
We all know the type -- the natural leader. If we don't have "it" naturally, can we learn "it"? The answer is yes! Although it helps to have a personality that naturally embodies leadership characteristics, a person who wants to be a leader can develop them. The first step is to understand what makes a leader and begin to adopt some of the key characteristics of a leader. The following is a list that was created by residents of Santa Ana at an Empowerment Zone event. See how you do with these "top twenty" leadership characteristics, and then look for areas that you may want to improve.

TOP FOUR THINGS EVERY COMMUNITY LEADER NEEDS:



1. To Be Deeply Invested In The Community
2. Vision
3. Good Communication Skills
4. Availability (You need time to do a good job!)

KEY CHARACTERISTICS



Goal Oriented - Believes in Missions
Accountable
Entrepreneurial Spirit
Diplomatic
Thick Skinned

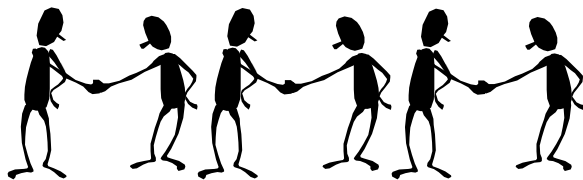
ABILITIES



Is A Good Listener
Ability to Prioritize
Ability To Make Decisions
Ability to Multi-Task



RELATIONSHIP TO COMMUNITY



Represents Community
Is Credible in Community
Has Visibility in Community
Has Good Community Links

EXPERIENCE



Leadership Experience
Experience of Being on a Board or in a Business.
Experience in Team Building

Plus a WINNING ATTITUDE!!!!

What does this mean? See how many "CAN DO'S" do you tend to have!

Can't (Never get there!)

We've never done it before. →→→→
It's too complicated. →→→→→→→
We don't have the resources. →→→→
It will never work. →→→→→→→→
There's not enough time. →→→→→→
We already tried it. →→→→→→→→
There's no way it will work. →→→→→
It's a waste of time. →→→→→→→→→
It's a waste of money. →→→→→→→→
We don't have the expertise. →→→→→
Our members won't go for it. →→→→→
It's good enough. →→→→→→→→→→
We don't have enough money. →→→→→
We don't have enough room. →→→→→
We don't have the equipment. →→→→→
It's not going to get any better. →→→→
It can't be done. →→→→→→→→→→→
No one communicates. →→→→→→→→→
Isn't it time to go home? . →→→→→→→
I don't have any ideas. →→→→→→→→
Let someone else deal with it. →→→→→
We're always changing direction. →→→→
It's too radical a change. →→→→→→→
It takes too long for approval. →→→→→
It doesn't fit us. →→→→→→→→→→→
It's contrary to policy. →→→→→→→→→
It's not my job. →→→→→→→→→→→
I can't. →→→→→→→→→→→→→→→→

Can (A Winner!)

We have the opportunity to be first.
Let's look at it from a different angle.
Necessity is the mother of invention.
We'll give it a try.
We'll reevaluate some priorities.
We learned from the experience.
We can make it work.
Think of the possibilities.
The investment will be worth it.
Let's network with those who do it.
Let's show them the opportunities.
There's always room for improvement.
Maybe there is something we can cut.
Temporary space may be an option.
Maybe we can find it.
We'll try one more time.
It'll be a challenge.
Let's open the channels.
Days go by quickly around here.
I'll come up with some alternatives.
I'm ready to learn something new.
Were in touch with our members.
Let's take a chance
'Well walk it through the system.
We should look at it.
Anything's possible.
I'll be glad to take the responsibility.
I can.