

Exploring Leadership

TEAMWORK: Helping Others Lead

Great leaders know they don't have to do everything themselves. They know that every person has unique talents, ideas, and experiences that can help the group succeed. Instead of trying to make every decision alone, great leaders listen, recognize the strengths of others, and encourage everyone to contribute. When everyone works together, groups make better decisions and accomplish more.

CONVERSATION STARTER:

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." —African Proverb. Ask: What do you think this quote means, and how does it apply to leadership?

Every person brings different talents, experiences, and ideas that can help a group succeed. Great leaders don't have all the answers; they ask questions, listen to others, and use everyone's strengths to help the group succeed.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Recognize that great leaders help others contribute.
- Practice listening to others and using everyone's strengths to make better decisions.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- One Packing List for each participant (Appendix B)
- One set of Responsibility Cards for each group (Appendix A)
- Pencil or pen for each participant

EXPLORATION ACTIVITY:

In this activity, participants will discover that great leaders make better decisions by listening to others, valuing different perspectives, and helping everyone contribute.

- Divide participants into groups of 4–6.
- Tell each group: Your 4-H club is hiking to a remote campsite for two days and one night. Once you leave the parking lot, you won't be able to return for anything you forgot. Everything your group needs must fit into one backpack.
- You have a list of 20 possible items, but you can only pack 10. There isn't one correct answer. Work together to choose the 10 items your group thinks are most important.

- Give each participant a Packing List. Allow one minute for participants to quietly choose the 10 items they would pack on their own.
- Next, give each participant one Responsibility Card.
- Explain: Each Responsibility Card represents an important responsibility for the trip. Read your card, but do not show it to anyone else. Instead, explain why your responsibility is important. Your goal is to help the group make the best decision together.
- Encourage participants to listen carefully and make sure everyone has an opportunity to share before making a final decision.
- Allow groups 4–5 minutes to discuss the options and agree on the 10 items they will pack.
- When time is up, have each group share the 10 items they selected. Then continue with the reflection questions.

FACILITATION TIPS:

- Focus on how the group works together, not the items they choose.
- Watch how participants listen, include others, and share.
- Make sure everyone has an opportunity to contribute.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Invite participants to read their Responsibility Cards aloud. As each card is shared, discuss how that responsibility influenced the group's decisions.

- How did hearing everyone's ideas affect your group's decisions?
- Did everyone have an opportunity to contribute? Why or why not?
- How did listening to different perspectives help your group make better decisions?
- What did this activity teach you about leadership?

APPLICATION DISCUSSION:

- Why is it important for leaders to listen before making decisions?
- How can recognizing other people's strengths make your group stronger?
- What is one way you can help someone else contribute this week?
- How will helping others contribute make you a better leader?



CONCLUSION:

Leadership is not about doing everything yourself. It is about helping others contribute, grow, and succeed. The best leaders listen before making decisions, recognize the strengths of others, and create opportunities for everyone to participate.

Remember, great leaders don't do everything themselves. They bring out the best in others.

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REFERENCES

- Act For Youth: <https://actforyouth.org/>
- Hello Insight: <https://learn.helloinsight.org/kb/en/>
- University of Wisconsin Extension 4-H: Being Y-AP Savvy: <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/youthadultpartnership/files/2011/02/YAP-Savvy12.pdf>



APPENDIX A: RESPONSIBILITY CARDS

Make one copy of this sheet for each group. Cut apart the Responsibility Cards and give one to each participant. Participants should read their card, keep it private, and explain why their responsibility is important to help the group make the best decision together.

Weather

- Your responsibility is to help the group think about the weather before making a decision.
- You checked the weather forecast. Temperatures will drop below freezing at night.

Health

- Your responsibility is to help the group think about everyone's health and well-being before making a decision.
- One member of your group has severe food allergies.

Safety

- Your responsibility is to help the group think about everyone's safety before making a decision.
- Heavy rain is expected on the second day.

Navigation

- Your responsibility is to help the group think about finding their way and communicating before making a decision.
- There is no cell phone service at the campsite.

Packing

- Your responsibility is to help the group think about space and weight before making a decision.
- The campsite is a two-mile hike from the parking lot. Everything your group needs must fit into one backpack.

Water

- Your responsibility is to help the group think about having enough safe drinking water before making a decision.
- There is no drinking water available at the campsite.



APPENDIX B: PACKING LIST

Make one copy for every three participants. Cut apart the Packing Lists and give one to each participant along with a pencil or pen.

Choose the 10 items you think are most important for your group's camping trip.

Then work together as a group to agree on one final list of 10 items.

- Sleeping bag
- Rain jacket
- Warm jacket
- First aid kit
- Water filter
- Extra water
- Flashlight
- Map
- Compass
- Rope
- Lighter
- Camp stove
- Bug spray
- Sunscreen
- Extra food
- Tarp
- Deck of cards
- Soccer ball
- Portable speaker
- Marshmallows

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