

Three Laws of Student Leadership

(Thanks to Dr. Tim)

#1 You Can't Lead Others Until You Can Lead Yourself.

This concept is crucial! You really must "lead by example." Peer pressure is still very strong. Role modeling is one of the most effective leadership techniques. Whenever there is a question of how to act or what to do, followers always look towards the leaders to see what is appropriate, then model it. In every group, 80% are followers (conformist) You can be a positive leader or a negative leader. Negative leaders are often insecure. The "Do as I say, not as I do" syndrome will certainly be the downfall of any leader. The leaders must establish the highest standards and then become the dedicated example in the pursuit of excellence. Just as the engine determines the speed of the train, the leaders dictate the responsibility level of the band.

#2 You Are Only Worth What You Give Away.

Leadership value is measured by the capacity to bring knowledge to others. This capacity must include a certain amount of talent and skill (knowledge). But a leader must be able to communicate (give away) this knowledge. This communication must be accomplished with sensitivity, empathy, confidence, humor, integrity, body language or any other method that works. The world is made up of many very smart and talented people who are not leaders. 90% of the qualities of leaders are in the area of "attitude" and only 10% in the area of "skills". PEOPLE DON'T CARE WHAT YOU KNOW, IF THE DON'T KNOW THAT YOU CARE! (The proof is in your attitude!) If you want to look good - do everything you can to make those around you look good - the abundance theory versus the scarcity theory. Remember the officer exam can only test most of the "skill" items, it is hard to test "attitude." The title of an Officer does not make someone a leader.

#3 You Can Only Give Away What You Got.

It must be understood that the leadership position carries with it the responsibility of increasing one's knowledge and work ethic. You must constantly set new and higher goals. You must be secure in the appropriate knowledge and skills. Nothing can ever be "good enough." This requires a very mature understanding of what the leadership commitment really means. The equation is basic: *The more I have, the more I give. The more I give, the more I learn. The more I learn, the more I have.....* Be more concerned with self-improvement rather than self-promotion. (Avoid the big-head)

Attitude and Responsibility

Life is 10% of what happens to you and 90% of how you react to it. If you are waiting for someone or something else to make your life richer, fuller or more satisfying, then you are wasting your time! Only you can decide how to react to life. If you look under the tree at Christmas and see horse manure, do you get mad or do you go outside and look for the new horse that you just got? If you get a bowl of lemons do you pucker up or make lemonade? Accepting full responsibility (to respond with ability) for your own acts and feeling gives you the power to control your own life and to feel the way you want to feel. How you perceive your environment is based on your paradigms. You control your thoughts, your thoughts control your feelings - *so you control your feelings*. Winners win because they think they can, losers lose because they think they will. (Self fulfilled prophecy)