

The Recipe of Leadership

3 parts COMMUNICATION:

The three parts of effective verbal and non-verbal communication include listening, reacting and speaking. Listening is being able to understand what you hear before you make up your mind. Reacting converts a whole range of non-verbal behaviors. Speaking entails being able to articulate your ideas on a personal and group level.

60 milliliters of VISION:

A leader brings vision into the group. Visions are the ideals we work toward. The better a leader can communicate the vision, the greater the motivation, commitment, and achievements of the whole group. Share the vision with all of the members and keep the vision alive.

One drop of MOTIVATION:

(if it is powerful enough one drop is all you need): Motivation is essential to the progress and stability of your group. Parts of motivation include: involvement of members, giving action to the ideas, the ability to persevere, time organization and rewards. Mix all parts before applying to your group.

10 drops of HONESTY:

As a leader, your integrity and credibility are based on how you handle your affairs with other people. Integrity is doing what you said you were going to do, when you said you were going to do it. Every leader should learn and apply the essence of the Golden Rule: treat others as you would like to be treated. When the rule is applied, the achiever is not viewed as an opportunistic, selfish leader, but rather as a fair person who deserves and receives trust.

A healthy dash of SENSE OF HUMOR:

If you can laugh while learning from your own mistakes, your members will understand that if they err the death penalty will not be automatically involved.

A sense of humor is useful to lighten up emotionally charged meetings, to break the ice, and to encourage new folks. But use humor with care. Using humor to embarrass and control shows a lack of respect and erodes trust.

Unmeasurable amounts of CARE:

Care is the one element of leadership that is most evident when it is missing. Care is the universal antidote for that plague on our campuses called apathy. An easy way to really show that you care is to spell it out this way:

Communicate with competence your confidence in your members.
Always be accessible for the tasks, meetings and programs.
Remember to be responsible and responsive.
Energize your members by being enthusiastic about their ideas and efforts.

125 milliliters of RISK:

Add small amounts of risk-taking at a time. Risk-takers are people who see opportunities when everyone else sees obstacles. Leadership is taking a chance on other people. Assume an attitude that lets you see, hear and experience with an open mind.

28 milliliters of RESOURCEFULNESS:

Leaders need to be resourceful with their time, budgets, equipment and members. The ultimate act of resourcefulness is the effective direction of your organization's members for the maximum benefit of the individual and the organization. Learning to delegate is one of the first acts of being resourceful.

Light sprinkle of CREATIVITY:

Stir this in slowly in order to blend it well with the other ingredients. Creativity is not being weird or being different for its own sake. Any good schizophrenic can come up with a couple of million ideas an hour. Creativity from a leadership standpoint is being able to "imagineer" - image, then engineer - ideas into reality.

Generous amounts of ENTHUSIASM:

Historian Arnold Toynbee said "...enthusiasm can only be aroused by tow things: first an ideal which takes imagination by storm, and second, a definite intelligible plan for carrying that ideal into practice". So you can see enthusiasm is not a shallow "rah-rah" attitude, but a very real driving force.

DESIRE:

To ensure a total combining of the elements, you must now heat the mixture with a burning desire. The heat produced in this step tempers the elixir much like the day - to - day usage of the skills.

Mix all of the above ingredients and your leadership will take your members and the organization to new levels as well as creating:

COMMITMENT:

Its occurrence can not be explained, but it only happens when all of the above ingredients have been properly combined and heated.