

leadership potpourri

(lĕ'dĕr-shĭp' pŏ'pŏŕ-ĕ')

n. a bunch of general leadership information lumped together

A student leader is more than the person who leads the group, such as the president or chair. A student leader can be anyone who is active in campus life.

Know the history of the organization. What are the accomplishments and limitations of the organization? Understanding the history of the group can contribute to a successful future.

Set a good example. Be on time. Be prepared. Be dependable. Be professional. By example, you will encourage others to do the same.



Keep members and leaders motivated and active. You may be talented enough to run things and plan events on your own. However, any initiative or activity is undisputedly more successful when all members are interested and involved.

Use your advisor. An advisor may be any person with knowledge and experience who can help a group, act as a referral agent, or provide expertise. If your group has an advisor, talk to them regularly. If not, visit OSA for assistance in finding an advisor.



Acknowledge different leadership and personality styles. It is important to acknowledge that people think, work, and react differently – even in identical situations. When you are not seeing eye-to-eye with someone, don't give into frustration. Try to understand where another person is coming from.

Listen. Jimi Hendrix said, "Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens." Listening is especially important because people respect others who know how to listen.

Know when to ask for help. A student leader is a "student" first. You are always learning new things and asking for help is part of the learning process. So don't hesitate: if you don't know, ask.

Recruit. Active recruiting is important to the future success of your organization. The most successful group may end up defunct if it does not seek and welcome new members.



Communication. Everything begins with communication and the way you interact with others. If you can communicate well, obtaining goals and remaining consistent is easier.



define yourself. get involved.

Be patient. Most of us don't get everything right on the first try. As Benjamin Franklin said, "Energy and persistence conquer all things."



Value and create relationships. Working as a team is often about more than getting a job done. It is also about having positive working relationships and learning from other people. The people are more important than the work.

The importance of organization and time management. Having a system of organizing appointments, obligations, and important documents is vital.



Be creative, especially with money, resources, and time. Sometimes leaders need to be creative with what limited resources they may have.

Know when to say NO! Even Super Student Leaders are not Super-Human. And even if you can do it all, there comes a point when you can't do it all and still do things well. Try not to overload your plate.

Follow through with what you say you will do. As a student leader, and as a responsible person, others should be able to count on you. If you say you will call, CALL. If you promise to be there, BE THERE.

Keep good records of membership and activities. Keep a database on members, resources, and past and present programs. Update your information with SGAC or SU.

Timeliness is a virtue. Being early is on time. Being on time is late. Being late is unacceptable.



You can never start planning too early. It is always better to plan ahead than run out of time.

Have specific goals. Mission and goals are the first steps. But how do you plan to turn a vision into action? Think about goals and work on strategy and objectives.

Thank you's. Write thank you notes to people who contribute to your group or events, such as presenters, performers, faculty, staff, student organizers, etc.



Don't be afraid to change old traditions or to create new ones. If an old tradition no longer reflects the values and purpose of an organization, consider a new tradition.

Remember that when you lead a group, it is no longer about what any single person wants to do. No one can afford to disregard the needs of the group, even if his or her opinion is different.



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