

What Does It Mean to be a DeMolay Leader?

Being a DeMolay leader is not unlike being a leader in any other organization whether it be in business, social service, government, religious, or social groups. The purpose of DeMolay is to prepare our members for the responsibilities of an active contributing adult member of your home, community, state, and nation.

DeMolay provides it's members the opportunity to actively learn what leadership is all about and how it works – an opportunity not many youth have.

In its most simplistic view, it can be said that good leadership provides the group being lead four (4) basic functions.

1. Renders A Service:

Leadership serves the best interests of the whole group or activity as well as those of the individual member. People are willing to follow a leader who helps them and/or the group achieve mutually beneficial and decided upon goals.

2. Makes Decisions:

Movement and progress are initiated and continued through a series of decisions. Indecisiveness results in no movement, only in waiting for someone who is both capable of making a decision and willing to do so.

3. Gets Action:

The very nature of modern leadership requires persuasion and inclusion. The response to the leader, measured by and in the actions of those being led is how action is gauged.

4. Gets Results:

The moment of truth in leadership is the achievement of results. It is the focusing and guiding of human energy in a definite direction for a specific purpose. It is both the aiming, and shooting that determines whether or not you hit the target.

Continuing in the same vein, in achieving these basic leadership functions, the basic steps in Leadership can be said to be:

1. Planning:

This is primarily a process role. The leader uses planning to set and achieve goals, to problem solve, to include and involve members of the group, to consider alternatives and achieve consensus on issues within the group. In planning, you attempt to answer the famous questions: “Who?” “What?” “When?” “Where?” “Why?” “How?” and “How Much?”

2. Organizing:

Consider the job, the people, the resources, the place, the time and assigning responsibilities and deadlines.

3. Motivating:

Furnish others with the desire to perform in accordance with the plan. Leadership motivates. Communications is a key to good motivation.

4. Guiding:

This is following and achieving the plan. The coordination, timing, and supervision that provides the focus, control and efficiency that makes for a well organized, inclusive, and successful activity.

While these generalizations capture the essence of leadership, it does not tell the whole story of leadership. Leadership is an art – a complex art at that. It is composed of several key components, which, when learned, mastered, and used make all the difference in whether or not the group and its members are successful.

Perhaps you have heard the old saying that someone is a “born leader.” The truth, however, is that leaders are not “born,” leaders are trained and nurtured through experience.

At the heart of leadership is, of course, the Leader. Successful leaders all possess and display certain traits. The traits displayed by all successful leaders can be defined as Knowledge, Skills, and Desire, all brought together and channeled through key Habits.



Knowledge

Knowledge is the basic foundation block. It is the necessary information about your organization or undertaking, which provides the leader with a basic understanding of what to do and why.

Our leadership “character,” basically, is a composite of our habits.

Remember always the old maxim:

“Sow a thought, reap an action.
Sow an action, reap a habit.
Sow a habit, reap a character.
Sow a character, reap a destiny.”

Skills

Skills offer many building blocks to learn and master. In DeMolay we teach the basic skills of leadership by giving you the opportunities to use both your **Knowledge** and **Skills**. There are very few chances in life to tryout these tools and help you turn them into good leadership **Habits**. As a leader in your chapter and DeMolay you will be responsible for running chapter meetings, making reports, leading projects and events, planning term programs, and membership. Building on your desire to have your chapter succeed, you will gain the basic knowledge and learn the skills necessary to successfully carry out your responsibilities. Take notes on the lessons taught, make note on the tips & tricks, evaluate how a project is executed and evaluate the good and bad, read the fine print in your leadership guides and take everything thrown at you as a key to your future. Knowledge and Skills are taught to each of us and if you are willing to learn how to achieve the maximum success as a leader, it will benefit you not only for your chapter and DeMolay, but also for yourself and your future.

Desire

The hardest block is your **Desire**. In reality, Desire cannot be taught, it must come from your heart. You must desire to be a leader for DeMolay and you must desire to have a positive impact on your brother DeMolays, your chapter and for the future of DeMolay. This is the strength upon which everything else is built. True leadership begins with the individual leader. Your success as a leader in DeMolay and in all your future endeavors is in large measure up to you. Your personal desire will help keep your interest alive, keep you focused on your goals; help sustain you in “bad” times as well as the “good,” and motivate you to stay the course.