

Chapter 6 – Public Speaking

PO.6 – Public Speaking

EO.1 – Write and Recite an Elevator Speech

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During Recruit Training you wrote your very first elevator speech. As a brief reminder, an elevator speech is a short message about you and the Young Marines that can be given anywhere. It communicates who you are and explains the Young Marines.

Now that you have earned the title of Young Marine and have been in the program for a little while, you have some experiences you can talk about in your elevator speech. Your speech should still explain the basics:

- Your name, rank, and unit name
- National, non-profit for boys and girls ages 8-18
- Leadership, teamwork, and discipline
- Citizenship, veterans' appreciation, DDR

It should also explain some of things you do in the Young Marines. Whenever you talk about our core values, give an example of a time when you experienced a core value of our program.

- You learned leadership by being a Team Leader during Recruit Training.
- Close Order Drill teaches you discipline and bearing.
- You practice teamwork every day by working with your unit and doing teambuilding exercises.

You can also use our Young Marine Creed to help explain to others why our program is so important and how it is helping you to grow as a person and a Young Marine.

Young Marines Creed

1. Obey my parents and all others in charge of me whether young or old.
2. Keep myself neat at all times without other people telling me to.
3. Keep myself clean in mind by attending the church of my faith.
4. Keep my mind alert to learn in school, at home, or at play.
5. Remember having self-discipline will enable me to control by body and mind in case of an emergency.

You do not have to recite the Creed in your elevator speech. It would take too long – remember your speech needs to be short – and it isn't in your words. You should instead explain what the Young Marines Creed is, what it means to the Young Marines, and what it is teaching you. In other words, sum up the Creed in your own words to help others to understand it.

These changes will help your elevator speech to be more personal to you. People who are asking about the program want to know what you think and what the program means to you. The speech you wrote or memorized in Recruit Training is a great starting point, but it will sound rehearsed to others and not authentic, like it's not coming from you. An updated speech will teach people more about the program, feel more like a conversation, and give you practice with public speaking. Many times the only thing a person knows about the Young Marines is what you tell them and how you present yourself. In that moment you represent all Young Marines!