

## Chapter 7 – Leadership

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#### EO.1 – Define Leaders and Team Members

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As a member of the Young Marines, you will work on your leadership skills as you progress through the program. It is important to develop into a strong leader, but it is also important to develop into a strong team member, and more importantly, a team player. Surprisingly, strong team leaders and strong team members have a lot of the same qualities, so as you grow as a team member, you will also be growing as a leader.

A strong team member and team player will:

- **Always be reliable.** Team members can be depended upon to always get the job done and get it done well. They always keep their promises when they say they will do something.
- **Communicate with their team members and leaders.** They share their ideas with the group and always respect the ideas and opinions of others to make sure everyone is heard.
- **Do more than is asked of them.** A strong team member will always do what they are asked to do, but they will also do more than what is asked. This means they do everything to the best of their ability and even do some things without being asked because they know they need to be done.
- **Be flexible.** Sometimes situations change, and a good team member will adapt to changes and even help when things change unexpectedly to make sure the mission is accomplished no matter what. They will also propose changes sometimes when things aren't going quite right.
- **Be committed to the team.** This means everything a team member does is for the good of the team. They form positive relationships with their team members and give 110% to their team at all times.
- **Obey the Young Marines Code of Conduct and the Young Marines Creed.** The Young Marines Code of Conduct and the Young Marines Creed tell us how we should behave and how we should conduct ourselves as Young Marines in our units and out in the world. Both of these will help you to build a strong foundation before you start building your leadership skills.

A strong leader shares a lot of these same qualities, they just do it from a position of leadership, someone who works with their team but who also leads it. A strong leader, in addition to being a strong team member, is:

- **Understanding of each person on their team.** They know that each person has different ideas and different strengths, and they help everyone to work well together.
- **Able to make the tough decisions.** Leaders are aware problems may come up with their team, and they can make decisions to help their team overcome these problems. They are also able to help make decisions to accomplish the mission.
- **Concerned with the well-being of their team.** Good leaders know their team members, and they feel for them. They can help guide their team members through tough problems without blaming people. They help their team to improve instead.
- **Accountable.** Good leaders are responsible for the success and failure of their team. When things go well, they give praise to people who deserve it, but they are also able to help out when things don't go well.
- **Confident.** Strong leaders are confident in their ability to lead, and they are confident in their team's ability to accomplish the mission.
- **Honest.** They can let their team know when things are going well or when they aren't. They give constructive feedback which means they tell their team members how to do better in a way that makes them want to do better. They treat others as they want to be treated.
- **Inspiring.** Strong leaders are able to first and foremost inspire their team members. They help them want to be and do better.
- **Positive.** Strong leaders maintain a positive attitude and model this for their team.

You need to be a strong team member before you can become a strong leader. Once you become a leader, you need to remember all the qualities you learned as a team member. A leader is still a member of the team; they just have more responsibilities as a leader.