

Chapter 16 – Leadership

PO.7 – Leadership

EO.1 – Discuss Positive Leaders

EO.2 – Reflect on Leadership Experiences

EO.1 – Discuss Positive Leaders

Now that you're taking on more leadership roles, it's important to pull inspiration from people in your life who are already in leadership roles. Think about someone who has been a positive leader in your life.

Positive leaders will be people who:

- Care about the people they lead and expect them to follow through on their promises,
- Challenge their team to be excellent and push them to be their best without being demanding,
- Unite their team ,
- Connect with each person on their team and get to know them,
- Communicate effectively with everyone ,
- Spread hope and optimism among the team,
- Have a strong vision for the team and help everyone to achieve it.

Think about people who do some or all of these things. Consider what they do, what they say, and how they treat others. Use them as an example of the kind of leader you hope to be. Use the space below to jot down some of their behaviors that you hope to exemplify as a leader.

EO.2 – Reflect on Leadership Experiences

As you start to take on leadership roles in your unit such as team leader, it is important to think about how you're doing as a leader, how you can do better in your role, and how you will do better the next time you are in a leadership position. To do this, one of your superiors, either a more senior Young Marine or an Adult Volunteer, will fill out a Leadership Evaluation Form, or LEF, for you in your position.

Your evaluator will score you based on the Whole Young Marines Concept. This means they will take into account everything about you as a leader. To understand the areas you'll be evaluated on, make sure to look at the billet descriptions in the Appendices. You should also refer to the Young Marines Creed, Obligation, and the Code of Conduct for examples of how Young Marines and Young Marine leaders should act and behave. You've already learned about the Young Marines Creed and Obligation. The Young Marines Code of Conduct is listed below:

Young Marines Code of Conduct

Article I: I am an American youth, proud of my country and our way of life. I am prepared to dedicate myself to educating others and myself in the history, traditions, and institutions thereof. I will do my best to live by the Marine Corps' core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment, as well as, the Young Marines' core values of Leadership, Teamwork, and Discipline.

Article II: I will never let another Young Marine down of my own accord. If in-charge, I will do my best to ensure the safety and wellbeing of those for whom I am responsible. I will immediately report any suspicious activity or behavior to a registered Adult Volunteer.

Article III: If I am offered drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products, I will politely resist and refuse. I will make every effort to stay clear of situations involving gangs, drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. I will not get involved in the same. I will also aid my friends and school-mates to stay clear of similar situations.

Article IV: I will always be loyal to my fellow Young Marines. I will make no statements nor take part in any action that may bring discredit to my God, country, family, and Young Marines. If I am the senior present, I will take charge. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those senior to me and support them in every way.

Article V: When asked about the Young Marines program, I will answer questions politely, respectfully, and to the best of my ability. If I am asked a question that I do not know the answer to, I will refer the person asking the question to a registered Adult Volunteer. I will never give information that I am not certain of nor mislead those who are seeking information about the Young Marines program.

Article VI: I will never forget that I am an American Youth and therefore the future of America, privileged with the freedom won and kept by the blood of those who fought to ensure our freedom. I am responsible for my actions and dedicated to the principles that made my country free.

Your evaluator will assign you a rating from Unsatisfactory to Outstanding and a score from 6 to 9.9. They will also explain why you earned the score you received. As a Young Marine and a leader, you should always be learning about how to be a better leader. Once you get your LEF score, you should sit down with your evaluator and talk about your score. Ask them to explain anything that you don't understand and let them help you set goals to improve your leadership skills. You can talk about steps you can take, or you can fill out a handout like you used during Recruit Training during your conversation.

To view the Basic LEF Form, see **Appendix C**.