

Tips for Leaders

Leadership is, above all else, a service. If you do not fulfill the needs of the people you lead, then it is difficult to be an effective leader regardless of your title.

That service may be passing on information, presenting activities to the members, facilitating meetings, etc. These are obvious and visible services. Equally important are the invisible services like instilling teamwork a sense of cooperation, creation a sense of accomplishment, and giving you staff a sense of “ownership: in their duties as team members.

In short, a really good leader understands that their most important job is helping the team members be successful.

Here are four ideas that may be of assistance to you in your endeavors:

1. **Ask Questions:** A good leader can often lead without being obvious. Ask the right questions, in the right context for the audience, and have someone else share the stage.
2. **Don't Be The Boss:** Include folks in the process and use their talents. People by nature want to be recognized as being good at what they do. When you show a connection between the various talents available, and tie those talents together, people will be more willing to work very hard toward the common goal.
3. **Polish Those Egos:** One of the most flattering things you can do is to ask a person for their help or their opinion. If you need help or ideas, say so, and say why. Be sincere in your request and include an appropriate compliment. One-on-one conversations are often the best. Nothing is more insulting to an ego than an insincere request for assistance or ideas.
4. **Share The Glory:** NEVER FORGET – your success is only a reflection of the hard work put out by your team. Be sure to mention those who helped and contributes to the goal that has been met. Credit and praise multiply the more you spread it around.