

LEADERSHIP



VISION
COMMUNICATION
ORGANIZATION
SYNERGISM

Abraham Lincoln's thought on youth leadership training: A child is a person who is going to carry on what you have started. He is going to sit where you are sitting and, when you are gone, attend to those things which you think are most important. You can create all the policies you please, but how they are carried out depends on him. He will assume control of your cities, states, and nations. He is going to move in and take over your churches, schools, universities, and corporations . . . the fate of humanity is in his hands.



Leadership

Leadership development and the opportunity to lead are probably the most important elements in Venturing. It is hoped you will get an opportunity to lead, either as an elected officer or as an activity manager. An activity manager is responsible for planning and running crew activities such as a weekend outing, the crew open house in September, or even your crew's superactivity. Being a good leader as well as a good follower makes the group much more effective. In addition to the responsibility of leadership within your crew, consider that one day you will be adult leaders. The future needs you to be effective leaders.

Venturing Leadership Skills Course

To assist you, whether you are a crew officer or not, the *Venturing Leadership Skills Course* will help you to become a better leader. This weekend-long course, conducted by your crew Advisors, is required for the Silver Award. The course also is required for the Advisor's Award of Merit. The four sessions included in the course are Vision, Communications, Organization, and Synergism.

In addition to these four key elements of leadership, you also will learn another very important leadership skill called *reflection*. Another word to describe reflection might be "analysis." All good leaders go through this process after completing a challenge or task. It is a way of looking back or reflecting on what went well or what could have gone better or differently. When this step is done, future efforts can be improved.



Upon completion of the Venturing Leadership Skills Course, you can order this trained patch strip, No. 04194, to wear on your left sleeve.

Kodiak

Learn the five essential leadership commissions while on a challenging high-adventure trek. Raft the mighty Yukon River in Alaska or sea kayak the barrier islands of Georgia. Learn while doing! For more information, go to the BSA Web site at www.scouting.org.



A vision is the nuts and bolts of leadership. You have to know where you're going. To be able to state it clearly and concisely. And you have to care about it passionately. That all adds up to vision.

—Peters and Austin

Communication is the most important skill in life.

—Stephen Covey

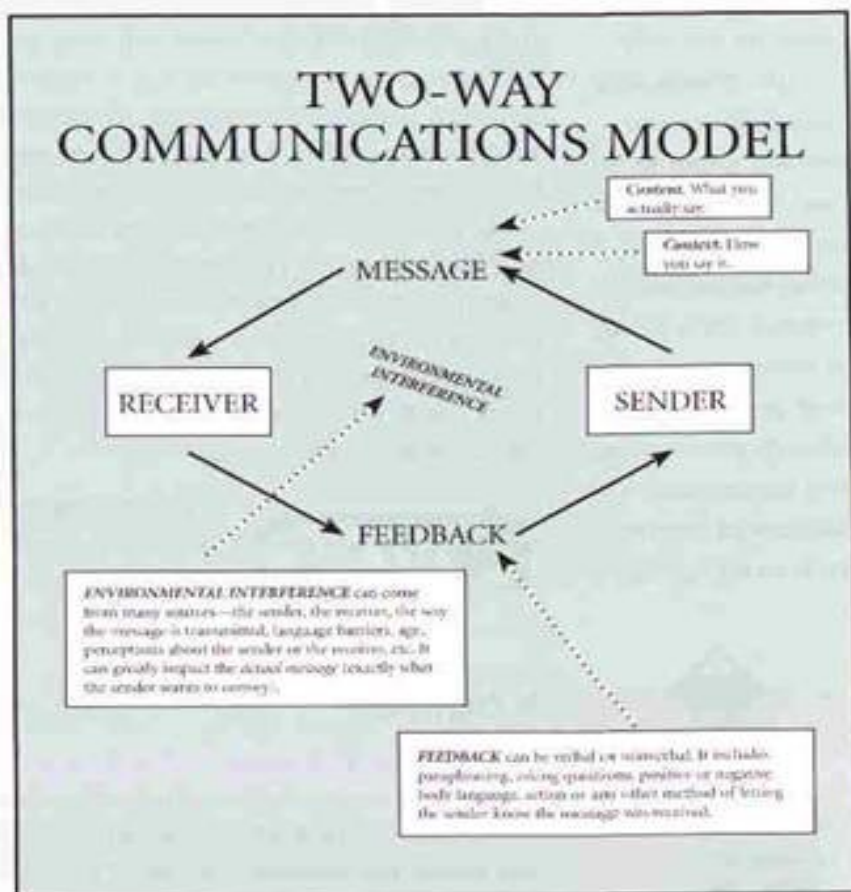


Vision

A good leader has to know where he or she is going and be able to motivate others to go there too. Vision focuses on the objective while inspiring group members toward that objective.

Communication

Since leaders don't operate alone—they lead others—communication must be effective. Otherwise confusion results. Communication is simply the process by which information is exchanged between individuals. Many of the world's problems are caused by lack of effective communication.



Keys to Planning

1. Planning is based on a solid foundation of values and vision.
2. Break the mission into smaller, doable tasks.
3. Work in small, cohesive, effective teams.
4. Keep focused on the vision and mission.
5. Involve others. Ask for volunteers to get commitment and ownership.
6. Operate in the open. Post the score.
7. Sell the benefits of change; don't force it.
8. Recognize your people.
9. Evaluate constantly.
10. Use the planning model learned in the Nature of Leadership:
 - A. Situation
 - B. Mission (task)
 - C. Execution
 - D. Command
 - E. Logistics

(From the Kodiak Leadership Course) –

Organization

Being organized means to develop a structure, to arrange into a coherent functioning whole, and to arrange by systematic planning and united effort. What a mouthful. In today's language, it means "walk the talk." Talking about accomplishing a task or meeting an objective just

won't do. You must be organized—this means yourself as well as those you lead. You might have to assign tasks to others working with you, or you might need to break your plan down into steps to accomplish.

Synergism

Synergism is the combined action of two or more people that results in achieving a result even greater than that which each individual is capable of. It is the state in which the whole is more than the sum of the parts.

For example: $1 + 1 = 2\%$ or even 1,000.

An effective leader recognizes and appreciates that each person is different and that each person sees the world through their eyes, not necessarily as the world really is. An effective leader must be willing to be flexible and sensitive to all situations and adjust leadership styles accordingly.

Your Leadership Opportunities

Even though the Venturing Leadership Skills Course will cover the heavy-duty material previously mentioned, you will

have plenty of fun learning it. You will learn by doing. Along with friends, you will learn the keys to leadership by doing a series of games and challenges. And, of course, always reflecting about what you just experienced.

Once you have learned the key elements to effective leadership, talk with your Advisors and crew officers about opportunities to lead. It takes practice to be a good leader. Do not be afraid to lead or make mistakes. You will improve in time. The success of your crew depends on you, as both a leader and a follower. Remember, synergy!

Advancement Leadership Requirements

Please check the advancement section of this book for details on the leadership requirements for the Gold, Silver, and Quartermaster awards.

Five Kodiak Leadership Commissions



The Effective Team
Values/Vision
Communications
Decision Making
Planning