

Studentlinc

Core Leadership Training



Overview

MODULE DESCRIPTIONS
STUDENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING
A SIX SEASONS CURRICULUM
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THE SIX SEASONS

There are seasons in a student leadership year. They flow from one into the other. Sometimes they are more intense and dramatic, other times they seem to come and go without much notice. There may be some overlapping and even some signs of moving back into a previous season. They express the flow of each year. And each student leader experiences these seasons at different levels. Some feel them more than others because of their own temperament, personality, and leadership situation.

For the most part, these seasons happen in the order that I list them here. There is movement in a student leader year with high points and low points. That's why it's important for each student leader to get a sense of the BIG PICTURE. If a student leader understands ahead of time when and where the seasons (both good and bad) might be, she'll be better prepared to handle them when they come.



THE SEASON OF ANTICIPATION

This is the season of looking ahead. Deciding to apply, planning a campaign, looking ahead to what one will attempt to change, maintain, and accomplish throughout the upcoming year.



THE SEASON OF IMPLEMENTATION

This is the season of moving into action. All the plans and dreams are put into motion. A student leader quickly finds that he is knee-deep in his position, putting his strengths to work, building relationships, and having fun.



THE SEASON OF FLUCTUATION

This is the season of overcoming obstacles. Student leaders discover that things don't always go as planned, conflicts arise, certain realities begin to push aside one's idealism.



THE SEASON OF EVALUATION

This is the season of the gut check. Working through the fluctuation season, one discovers that the year may turn out differently than anticipated, that everything planned may not happen. A student leader must take the time to figure out what's most important or risk her success.



THE SEASON OF DETERMINATION

This is the season of staying the course. A student leader will come to a crossroads - to persevere or to walk away (before he's done...before the year is over). It is during this season that a student leader must decide that there is still work left to be done and if he sticks with it, he'll discover a whole new level of leadership.



THE SEASON OF SEPARATION

This is the season of letting go. Every student leader leaves, the question is when? A student leader who stays the course will leave a lasting legacy that other student leaders can follow. How a student leader prepares the next generation of student leaders is vital to the health of the organization.

THE STUDENT LEADER'S BACKPACK

The Student Leadership Backpack (SLB) contains the core skills that you'll need to be successful throughout your student leadership year. Each of these five core leadership characteristics can be learned and developed.

LEAD YOURSELF FIRST: THE STUDENT LEADER'S HARDEST TASK

Leaders start with themselves. Character, self-discipline, and personal organization skills determine what kind of leader a person will be. Leaders must serve as an example to those who put their trust and loyalty in them. Leadership starts off as an inside job.

DEVELOP YOUR INFLUENCE WITH OTHERS: THE STUDENT LEADER'S BIGGEST ASSET

Influence allows a leader to lead. A leader knows how to move people in a certain direction through mission, vision, and values.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE MINDSET: THE STUDENT LEADER'S NOBLEST CAUSE

The leader understands that there is a moment between a person's need and their ideal future and helps them achieve that. A leader knows that participating in this moment is the opportunity to be the difference that people are looking for.

CLEAR COMMUNICATION: THE STUDENT LEADER'S STRONGEST SKILL

The ability to communicate is often overlooked in leadership. But clear communication is what motivates and moves people. A leader must be able to keep people informed and focused on what's most important for the organization. A successful leader will provide clarity and not confusion.

GET OTHERS INVOLVED: THE STUDENT LEADER'S HIGHEST INVESTMENT

By definition, a leader is one who has people following him or her. If all a student does is accomplish tasks, he or she is a student worker. But if a student focuses on getting others involved and spends time equipping them, he or she is a student leader.



THE SIX SEASONS TRAINING MODEL

When the Six Seasons of the Student Leader Year are combined with The Student Leader's Backpack they form the Six Seasons Training Model matrix. Within the matrix are 30 leadership modules that deal with the specific issues student leaders face while they exercise a leadership capacity within a particular season

	ANTICIPATION	IMPLEMENTATION	FLUCTUATION	EVALUATION	DETERMINATION	SEPARATION
LEAD YOURSELF FIRST	CHARACTER Develop tools to remain authentic	PERSONAL MANAGEMENT Organize your time/develop systems	BALANCE Keep emotions in check / focus on big picture	PRIORITIES Revisit your purpose and establish what's important	SELF-DISCIPLINE Do the right things and persevere	FINISH STRONG End well/ No regrets
DEVELOP INFLUENCE WITH OTHERS	VISION Looking into the future / begin with end in mind	EQUIPPING Giving tools and training to be successful	VALUES Align the vision with what's most important	MOMENTUM Finding out what works and building upon it	EXCELLENCE Do your best and then some	LEGACY What you leave behind when you leave
MAKE A DIFFERENCE MINDSET	PAY ATTENTION Invite feedback, suggestions about needs	PREPARATION Identify needs to address/assess resources	PROBLEM SOLVING Overcome obstacles and crisis	LEADING CHANGE Decide what needs to change to make things better	PAYING THE PRICE Persevering / sacrificing to achieve success	CELEBRATION Recognize and congratulate success
CLEAR COMMUNICATION	EXPECTATIONS Establish communication channels/guidelines	EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION Communicate well	RELATIONAL COMMUNICATION Learn to connect with people	LISTENING The better half of communication	MOTIVATION Tying organizational goals to personal aspirations	EXPERIENCE Pass on key info to next generation
GETTING OTHERS INVOLVED	RECRUITMENT Use excitement to sign people up / build your team	DELEGATION Assign tasks to others	ACCOUNTABILITY Follow up on delegated tasks and assignments	FOCUS ON STRENGTHS Review your performance and talents/abilities	TEAMWORK Teamwork makes the dream work	POTENTIAL LEADERS Raise up the next generation of leaders

This training model is designed to take your students through practical leadership training as they are experiencing specific leadership issues. Your students will wrestle with the topics and ideas that are pertinent to their situation right now.

Of course, there are other ways to implement this training. Since each module can act as a stand alone lesson, you are free to plot your own course.

A. Individual leadership modules. - Focus on the leadership trait that your group needs to work on the most.

B. Six Seasons Track - Follow the student leadership year and work through each season as they occur.
RECOMMENDED!

C. Core Leadership Skills Track - Work through each of the five student leadership skills that a student carries in his or her student leadership backpack.

MODULES INCLUDE:

Each Studentlinc Core Leadership Training Module focuses on one leadership theme within the Six Seasons Training Model matrix. These modules are designed for use in a comprehensive student leadership training program and include the following components:



A] An introduction to the student leadership theme. This brief paragraph explains why this theme is important for student leaders.



B] A concise teaching outline that explains the key aspects of each leadership theme. This outline can be used for student reading or in training sessions led by an advisor.



C] A practical case study that students can interact with. Each case study gives students a chance to reflect on real life situations. These situations will cause student leaders to think deeply about how they would properly implement the leadership theme in this specific context.



D] Practical application suggestions. Students can use these as quick action steps to put into practice immediately.



E] Journal questions are used for reflection by student leaders. It is helpful for students to keep a journal of their experience. These questions guide student's writing about their leadership journey and personal growth



F] The sidebars include quotations and teaching tips that enhance the leadership theme in each module.

The Core Leadership Training Modules provide an overarching training curriculum. You can use and re-use this material with each new student leadership group.

CHARACTER

Each lesson can be quickly adapted to a fill-in-the-blanks worksheet or transferred to a PowerPoint presentation.

You can use one, two, three, or all of the different components of each lesson depending on how much time you have.

SAMPLE OF LESSON FROM MODULE ON CHARACTER

Students develop student leadership

1. **LIVE**
Many of the responsibilities of a student leader are...

2. **BE THE...**
Leaders are often... way to their followers that...

3. **YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS NEED TO AGREE.**
People in leadership will often joke, "Do as I say, not as I do." This relates to #1 but comes at it from a different angle. A student leader instructs her followers to do their work with integrity, to live in loyalty to the vision and cause, and to be willing to model that for them. When it's displayed in the...

4. **DON'T SHY**
Leadership is a sweat-bath. It's not always "above" the fray. You get it done, you work hard, you do to achieve...

5. **KEEP YOUR...**
Being a student leader is not on it. Don't let the future let you down. Trust can be built up.

...for students to provide a way for... character for their...

...gives them... level of... effective... amount of...

6. ASSOCIATE WITH OTHERS OF HIGH CHARACTER.

If you stick a poker into a blazing fire the poker will become red hot. The same is often true with those whom a student leader associates with. If she spends time with people of high character, she'll be more apt to develop her own character in positive directions. Plus, the character of those whom she associates with will reflect on her own character. People really do believe that "birds of a feather flock together."

7. FOLLOW THROUGH ON RESPONSIBILITIES.

This one is similar to #5 but more specifically addresses the tasks of a student leader's job. Whether he was elected or selected for his position, people give him their trust believing he would do the job well. Make sure you give it your best. It is not his job to do everything by himself (he shouldn't be a student leader), but the responsibility of following through with him. He must inspire follow-through in those who follow him. It is an opportunity to be excellent.

8. DON'T LET YOUR ACTIONS PUT THE REST OF YOUR TEAM IN JEOPARDY.

A student leader's actions have an effect on everyone. No one is in complete isolation. Members of a team are affected by "us." When a student leader acts carelessly, it negatively impacts the credibility of the team.

9. DON'T SHOW IMMATURE MATURITY IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION.

Character building moments. A student leader's character is tested when things get rough. If she can handle small challenges, she will be much more prepared to handle larger ones. There are ways to determine the maturity of a student leader and handles...

10. CHOOSE TO...

A student leader's choices need to be made with care. In fact, he often chooses to do the hard work. His reward is the respect of his peers and the success of his team.

CASE STUDY
A REAL LIFE SITUATION

John is a student leader who is working at the table selling passes for the upcoming year's activities. At the end of the day, the receipts are counted and something doesn't add up. It appears there is exactly \$200 missing. When the other student leaders question John, he claims he has no idea where the missing money is. The leadership team huddles up to discuss the situation.

At this point they want to take John at his word. Unfortunately, John had promised to lead the clean up crew at the end of the year. But everything he had promised to do and the local business had also failed to do through the year. John had also failed to take responsibility for the missing money. He wasn't a thief.

QUESTIONS:
1. How does John's character affect the rest of the leadership team?
2. What would you do to improve your character if you were in John's shoes?
3. How do you think John's character affects the rest of the leadership team?

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APPLY IT NOW
PRACTICAL STEPS TO TAKE IMMEDIATELY

- You get to make choices everyday. Those choices count. Consider how the choices you make today effect your character.
- It's easy to make a promise, it's more difficult to keep one. Work at keeping your promises today.
- Character is made in the small moments of our lives. Think about what kind of character you exhibited in the small things today.
- The character you have today is the result of the choices you have made in the past. Think about how your character has affected your life. What would that person say about your character?
- Identify one person whom you believe exhibits good character. How do you think he or she has a role model for your own life.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO THINK ABOUT

Write a paragraph about how you think you have a good character. How do you think you have a good character? How do you think you have a good character? How do you think you have a good character?

4. Think about one area where you would like to grow and develop in your character. Make a list of three practical things you can do to improve that area.

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STUDENTLINC



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LEADERS ARE LEARNERS.

That's why there are so many resources that address leadership issues for the budding entrepreneur, the business leader, even the person who desires to simply lead him or herself. Studentlinc was created to specifically address the issues and the circumstances faced by student leaders - those young people who are engaged in the leadership laboratory within their school, youth group, civic organization, etc. Studentlinc is dedicated to taking the best of what's available in leadership literature and training and offer it within the context of the student leadership experience.

The best leaders are students - always learning...always growing. In fact, Studentlinc recognizes that there isn't much difference between leaders who strive to be the best students and students who are striving to be the best leaders. There's a lot to learn when one is leading others.

For more information about Studentlinc, please visit our website at

www.studentlinc.net

There you'll find

- organized links to specific articles
- downloadable tools that are reproducible for immediate use
- practical Ebooks that will help student leaders make the most of their experience
- opportunities to bring real, hands-on training to your group of student leaders

If you would like to contact us, send an email to studentlinc@gmail.com.