



Motivation

As a group leader, it is vital to keep your group members motivated to not only do the work that you are doing but to be an active and participating part of the organization! By involving team members in the meaningful aspects of your organization's work, you are more likely to have a team that is willing to work hard, produce quality results, care about other members of the team, and feel personally invested in the group. It is when a team leader is not willing to release some decision making power or when the organization has lost productivity, that group members tend to become apathetic, selfish, frustrated, and disconnected with the group and its leader. Read on to find some helpful tips for successful group and self motivation!

Recognition

Recognition is a key part of motivating anybody, especially the members of your student group. Providing some time at each meeting for members to recognize each other or for the leader to recognize some members encourages members to work hard to be recognized at the next meeting, and provides a sense of achievement and purpose to those people who are recognized. On all accounts it serves to maintain a motivated and appreciative team going into the next weeks or months tasks.

Here is an example of an activity that can serve this purpose and does not take a great deal of time.

Web of Yarn

Sit in a circle with your group and have the group leader hold a ball of yarn/string/twine etc. As the first one to go, the leader will hold the yarn, say something nice about someone in the group (this could be something great they did that day, why you appreciate them as a part of the team, an attribute about them that you find great to have around, etc.), and then throw the yarn to that person. The person who catches it then says something nice about someone else and throws the yarn to them. This continues until everyone has had a turn throwing the yarn. At this point the yarn should be spread like a web across the circle of the team. The leader should have a pair of scissors so that each member of the team is able to cut a piece of the web to keep as a memento. This can be to remind them of not only the nice thing said about them, but more importantly the respect, kindness, and talent that exists within their team.

An easy way to adapt this game would be to have the facilitator begin by asking a question to someone and throwing them the yarn. The person to whom it is thrown would then answer the question, educating the group a little more about who they are, and would then ask a question of someone else in the group. In the end once the web is created it can be seen as a symbol of new knowledge, new friendships, and new connections.

Questions to Ponder....

What is it on a daily basis that serves as motivation for YOU?

What motivated you to volunteer for the various leadership roles that you fill?

How do your team members serve as motivation for you to be a successful leader?
(informing them of these ways could serve as a very successful motivation tool in itself)

Who have been your biggest motivators in life/school/work?
Why?

Do you see yourself as a leader and a motivator? If so, why? If not, why not?

How can you enable others to discover what motivates them?

Have you ever been in a situation where you felt that nothing could motivate you? If so, how have you gotten yourself out of this funk?

*A pat on the back
is only a few
vertebrae
removed from a
kick in the pants,
but is miles ahead
in results.*
--Ella Wheeler
Wilcox



Quick Tips

For Being a Good Motivator...

- Be a good listener.
- Praise in public; criticize in private.
- Give credit where it is due.
- Show interest in, and an appreciation of, those around you.
- Let all members be in on all plans and programs, even in the planning stages.
- Remember that the leader sets the stage for the members.
- Emphasize positives.
- Learn from (instead of dwelling upon) past mistakes.
- Be consistent.
- Ask members for their help.
- When you are wrong or make a mistake, admit it and move forward.
- Use every opportunity to build a sense of importance in the members' work.
- Give members goals and a sense of direction.
- Give members the opportunity to help make decisions in chapter operation as well as take the lead on various projects or programs. Their investment is crucial!
- Lead by example, and practice what you preach!

Pieces of Leadership brochures are available on the following topics:

Budgeting
Communication
Conflict Resolution
Delegation
Facilitation
Goal Setting
Group Dynamics
Ice Breakers/Team Builders
Mission Statements
Motivation
Officer Transition
Peer Supervision
Program Planning
Qualities of a Good Leader
Running a Good Meeting
Stress Management
Time Management
Wellness

*The information provided in this brochure
was adapted from:*

Rees, Fran. *25 Activities for Developing Team
Leaders*. 2005.

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<http://www.mortarboard.org/0310.html>

For more information on the topics
listed above or to access the
resources in our
Leadership Library,
please visit the

**Office of Student Activities and
Leadership Development**

Located on the
First Floor of the
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Tips for the Wesleyan Leader

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*Building your Leadership
one piece at a time...*