



Making the Character Connection with...

Leadership

Being a person of good character means you follow the Six Pillars of Character_{SM} every day. By choosing to take a Leadership project you are showing that you want to help your community become the best it can be. You have learned about many characteristics of leaders and different activities you can do to show leadership. You may have the opportunity to volunteer in your community (Citizenship) or help someone in need (Caring). When you act as a leader you are responsible for making sure your team members have the information they need and understand their individual roles (Responsibility). No matter what your role in a group, you can show leadership through your behaviors. As you work through your Leadership project, remember that people of good character often become great leaders. Think of ways you can demonstrate your knowledge of leadership while also demonstrating the characteristics of a person of good character.

This Character Connection contains:

- **Explanation of how the Six Pillars of Character relate to your Leadership project.**
- **Activities on how you can demonstrate good character while practicing your Leadership skills.**
- **Questions to help you think of other ways to demonstrate good character in your everyday life.**

Character Connection: Leadership

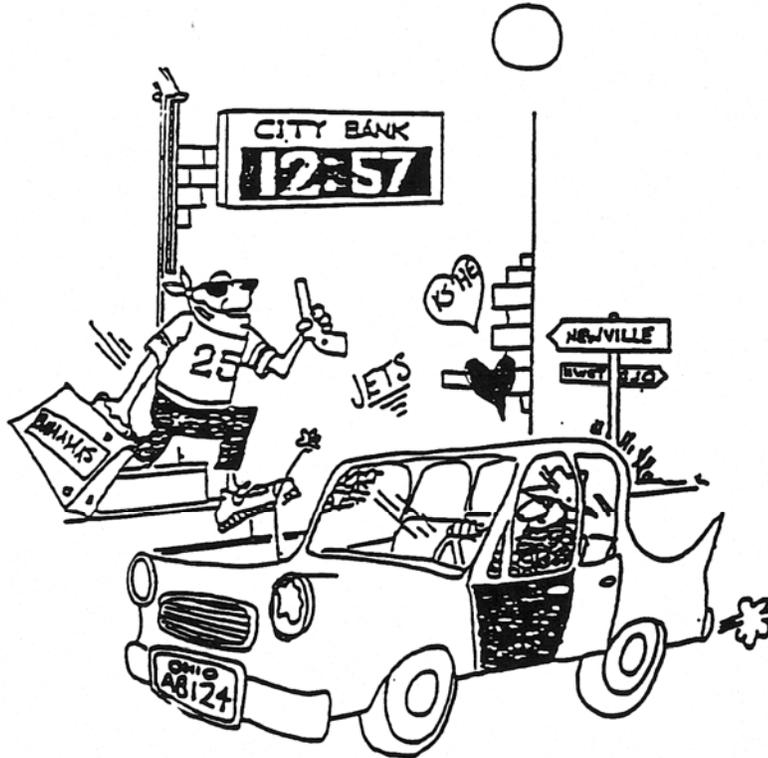
Trustworthiness	Responsibility	Caring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Be on time to group activities ✓ Always give plenty of notice if your plans and availability change ✓ Be dependable and help out to make sure your group performs its best 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Be prepared with the supplies you need ✓ Take charge and lead what you say you will - don't fall back on others ✓ Plan Ahead! Be prepared in case things don't go the way you plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Share what you have learned with others ✓ Help out whenever you can ✓ Put forth your best effort ✓ Be thankful of your leaders and those who allow you to lead their groups
Respect	Fairness	Citizenship
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Treat younger participants the way you want them to treat you ✓ Show that you respect leaders and participants ✓ Resolve disagreements in the group before or after an event. Never involve people in a disagreement who are not involved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Be a group player ✓ Lead only what you are in charge of. Give everyone a chance to show their skills ✓ Be willing to assist others when they are in charge ✓ Be open-minded when helping out with things you don't know much about 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Volunteer ✓ Organize events that will benefit your community and club ✓ Show others the importance of having both leaders and followers

Character Connection: Leadership

Activity: Just the Facts

DO:

Use this activity in a 4-H meeting or project meeting or with a group of friends. Imagine that you are any eyewitness to the following event. Study this sketch. You will be given a short time to observe the facts. When you are told to stop, turn the sketch over, turn to the person next to you, and describe what you saw – tell him or her "all the facts." That person should tell the next person, and so on, until the last person gives a report to the whole group.



REFLECT:

1. What was your first reaction to this activity – did you think it would be easy or hard?
2. Did it turn out the way you thought it would?
3. How does this activity relate to your leadership project and to character?

APPLY:

Being in leadership positions means we must make decisions based on facts, which means relying on the Six Pillars of Character. Can you think of times when you have made a decision based on what you perceived as fact to later find out it wasn't true? How does this affect your credibility with others who look to you as a leader?



Character Connection: Leadership

Activity: My Favorite Teacher

DO:

Have individuals pair up with someone different.

Exchange stories about your favorite teachers. Remember two or three teachers who were really special. Take the time to describe your favorite teacher: looks, actions, ways of teaching, and special things that made him or her a good teacher. Discuss those things that are about the same among the reports, and why they are important in a good teacher.

REFLECT:

1. What things do the good teachers have in common?
2. Which of these good things is most important?
3. How can you expect teachers to develop these skills?
4. When you teach someone a new skill, do you use any special skills or techniques your favorite teacher uses?
5. How does this activity relate to the leadership project?
6. Did any of the traits you talked about have to do with character? How?

APPLY:

Much of what we learn and how we behave we learned from someone else. It's called role modeling. When you serve in leadership roles, there will be others looking to you as a model for how they want to act and solve problems. People are also watching you and how you make decisions of character. Think about the people you have looked up to and tried to model. What was it about that person that you definitely want to pass along to others?



Character Connection: Leadership

Activity: Words of Confidence

DO:

As you have developed your leadership skills, there have been others who have helped you develop the confidence to stand before a group, make difficult decisions, or work to help everyone feel a part of the group. These people have helped you feel confident. In this activity, those in your leadership project are going to help club members build confidence for each other. One way we can build confidence is to recognize positive things about other people and tell them what these are.

At your next 4-H club meeting, give everyone a paper plate and masking tape and ask that they attach the plate to their back. Explain to the group that you are going to give them a set amount of time. In that time frame you would like for them to go to other members and write one positive characteristic about each person on the plate. Encourage them to write something positive on everyone's plate. Provide them suggestions like *great smile, good at organizing, helps others*, etc.

When time is up have everyone remove the plate from their back and take a few minutes to read what others have written. If you have time you can ask everyone to share one characteristic that was written on their plate that is particularly meaningful to them.

REFLECT:

1. Was this an easy activity to plan and prepare for?
2. Is it always necessary to plan big awards events in order to share good things with others?
3. How did this activity make you feel?
4. How did others respond to this activity?

APPLY:

As someone in a leadership position it is important to make others feel that they are important and that they have meaningful things to contribute. Just taking time to say a kind word to someone can make a big difference. Be sure to remember the very youngest 4-H members and help them build confidence at an early age. Taking time to care about others is an important leadership trait.

