

My Leadership in Rotary



As a Rotarian, I am, by definition, a leader.

Good leadership requires thought, planning, preparation, responsibility, and a willingness to try something new, not being bound by the past, and the confidence to take risks.

RLI believes that while there are certain innate qualities a person brings to leadership, that leadership can be taught in the sense that a person can improve their leadership skills.

Session Goals:

Explore the Characteristics of Leadership

Review Leadership Styles

Examine how your leadership style relates to other leaders in your club and to the needs of your Rotary Club

Resources

- The Basics for Effective Leadership Are Really Pretty Basic PDF
[Basics of Leadership 1.pdf \(rlifiles.com\)](#)
- 12 Leadership Essentials for the 21st Century PDF
http://rlifiles.com/files/resource/12_Leadership_Essentials.pdf
- How to be an Effective Leader (Master Class)
[How to Be an Effective Leader: 8 Styles of Leadership - 2023 - MasterClass](#)
- Situational Leadership Model (Hersey & Blanchard)
<https://www.toolshero.com/leadership/situational-leadership-hersey-blanchard/>

All PDF materials are available at www.rlifiles.com

Session Prep

The activities in this session work best with a whiteboard or a flip chart and post-it notes so you can reorganize them easily. (If you don't have a whiteboard or post-it notes, just record the characteristics clearly on the flip chart.) Read through the Leadership styles in advance to ensure you understand each style and can handle the discussion on each one. Do not show favoritism for one style over another – all styles are valid. We are focusing on only these 5 styles, there are other styles outside the scope of this session. Encourage participants to continue to learn outside of this session.

Review the session goals with the participants at the start of your session.

Session Activities

1. What are the characteristics of good leadership?
Collect input from everyone, record on a flip chart. Post it notes work even better!
2. Which are the most important?
Allow participants to prioritize. If using Post it notes, move them physically.
3. Which are the most important for business?
4. Which are the most important for Rotary or a volunteer organization?
5. Why are they different?
6. If all Rotarians are leaders, does our personal leadership matter?

Transition: Let's take a minute to think about our personal styles. Here are 5 general styles we have probably all come across:

Participative: seeks to involve other people

Situational: changes leadership style according to situational factors

Transactional: works through hierarchical structures and systems of reward

Transformational: leads through inspiration, sharing energy and enthusiasm

Servant: serves others rather than being served.

Take a moment to discuss each of these leadership styles. Ensure you get feedback from the participants on each style. Make sure everyone understands. Most important – there are no “wrong” styles on this list!

1. Which one(s) are you most comfortable with?
2. Which ones are most important to leadership in Rotary?
3. Should you use the same style all the time? Why? (Or why not?)
4. Which ones are most visible in your club?
5. Think about a successful President in your club (without identifying that person) and tell us how their success is related to their leadership style.
6. Which type of leadership do you think would be most successful in your club?
7. How can you apply this information in your club or to yourself?

Summary:

- Leadership is a learned skill and a personal choice.
- Leadership requires thought, planning, preparation, and a willingness to try something new.
- Leading volunteers can be different than leading employees.

In Part II under team building, we will develop further qualities and characteristics of volunteer leadership.

Additional Leadership Resources

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/sallypercy/2022/06/27/leave-your-ego-at-the-door--what-nordic-leaders-can-teach-us/?sh=58ca187f9ba5>

<https://www.norden.org/en/news/nordic-leadership-what-makes-it-so-special>

<https://www.cec-managers.org/scandinavian-leadership/>