

YOVASO R.E.A.C.H.

How to be a positive role model and leader in your school and community



YOVASO R.E.A.C.H.

- Respect
- Everyone
- And
- Create
- Harmony



Do I have what it takes to be a leader?

- Everyone here can be a leader in his or her school
- Leadership isn't about being the loudest or the smartest or the most popular, it is about making a difference



Key Traits of a Leader

- You must have a vision
- You must have passion
- You must be able to make decisions
- You must be a team builder
- You must have character





You must have a VISION

- Know what you want from your club
- If you want to win every campaign, that is your vision
- If you want your club to give presentations to the community, that is your vision
- If you want to add 50 new people to your club this year, that is your vision

You must have **PASSION**

- You need to truly care about what you are doing
- Some of you might be passionate about seat belt usage, others might care more about distracted driving
- The people around you will catch your enthusiasm and excitement



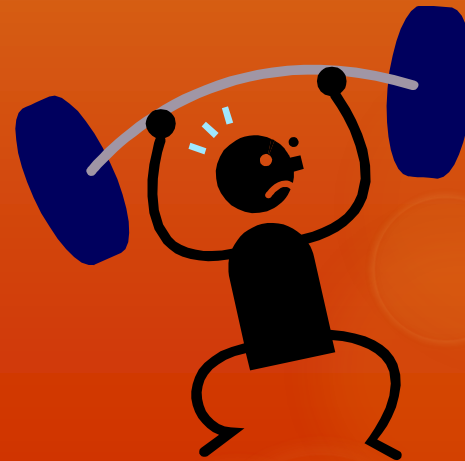
You must be able to make DECISIONS



- You need to think about the decision and all of the outcomes
- You need to make decisions quickly so you can get the ball rolling
- Commit to your decision and don't back down
 - If you see that the choice you made is bad for the club, then you can rethink the choice and ask for help

You must be a TEAM builder

- Just because you are a leader, doesn't mean you aren't part of the team
- Give others responsibility and they will feel more connected to the organization
- Encourage others in the team to participate



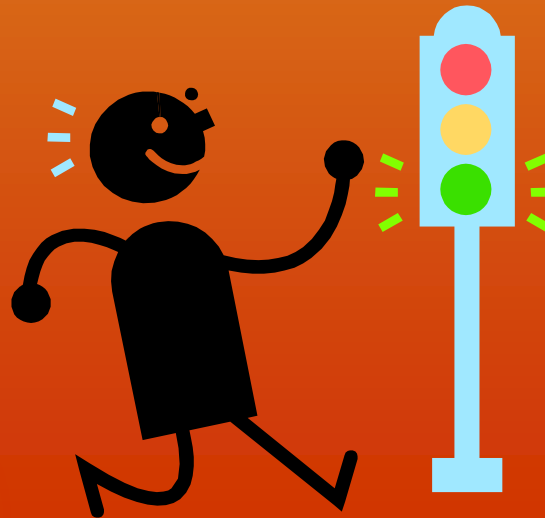
You must have CHARACTER

- No two leaders are alike
- You do not have to lead the same way someone else does, find out what works best for you
- Be yourself



Leadership in YOVASO

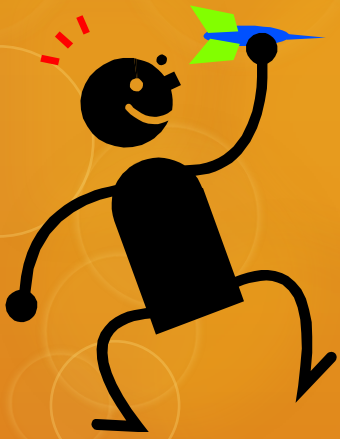
- School's YOVASO Club
- Youth Advisory Council
- Youth Leader for Summer Leadership Retreat
- NOYS Global Youth Traffic Safety Rally



What does it take to be a good role model?



- Check your actions - someone is ALWAYS watching you
- Remind others what behaviors are inappropriate
- Do not give in to peer pressure, not even for your closest “friends”
- Lead yourself and your friends in staying away from drugs and alcohol
- Teach your friends about traffic safety
- Be the leader of the group - bring up fun and safe ideas to avoid negative activities



Activity Ideas

- Join YOVASO or other clubs that promote safety or are fun and keep you and your friends occupied
- If you are an older sibling and have a younger brother or sister that hangs out with you, be a role model, chances are that they look up to you
- Keep yourself and friends busy by organizing a sport to play or activity to do

Activity Time



Everyone Stand Up!

Think About It!

- Your actions will rub off on people that look up to you. If you step in the wrong direction chances are that your peers are going to be stepping that way too.
- Be aware of your actions. Before you make a decision think about what could happen.



Why does this matter?

- You need to set a good example for the group so that people can follow you and not make bad choices. Those bad choices can leave a mental, emotional, or physical scar that you may never be able to undo.



What is Peer Pressure?

- Any influence by a group of your peers that makes you change your attitudes, values or behaviors to fit the group
- This includes pressuring someone into doing something that they shouldn't – like drinking alcohol, trying drugs or picking up poor driving habits



Who are your peers?

- Your friends
- Other people that are your same age – you might go to school or church with them or play a sport with them
- You and your friends influence one another
- People pay attention to what their peers do because they admire them or want to be accepted by them



Is peer pressure always bad?

- NO!!
- You and your peers are important to each other
 - Friendship
 - Socialization
 - Advice
 - Encouragement
 - New (positive) experiences
 - Positive role model



BUT...

- Peer pressure can be a problem, especially if your friends are doing something illegal or dangerous
- Peer pressure can be overt
 - Your friends might ask you to do something, like smoke a cigarette
- Peer pressure can be covert
 - Your friends might not ask you to do something wrong, but expect you to do it
 - If there is beer at a party, they may expect you to drink it





How do I avoid peer pressure?

- Listen to your gut and stick to your values
- Plan for situations that might involve pressure
- Create a bail-out plan with your parents or a friend you can trust, in case you need to leave an uncomfortable situation
- Befriend people with the same interests and values that you have
- Don't be afraid to ask for help from an adult
- Don't be afraid to say NO!!



Conclusion



**Everyone in this room can be a
leader and a role model!**