

Leadership Qualities, Skills, and Resources

Courage:

The mindset that enables a person to face difficulty. Courage is not the absence of fear but rather the willingness to do something in spite of fear.

Visionary:

The ability to see the bigger picture in a situation or organization, and dream of possibilities that would be more beneficial. A visionary is one who imagines possibilities.

Change Agent:

The ability to not only move people and things in a new direction, but also to accept, handle and thrive in the midst of change. A change agent is one who can create a sense of urgency for a new direction, and guide a group down the path of that new direction.

Decisive:

Having the willingness and ability to make a decision, judgment call or resolution. Leaders would often rather make the wrong decision than no decision at all.

Perseverance:

The ability to remain steady in a course of action; having tenacity and endurance despite hardship or discouragement.

Risk Taking:

The courage to begin a course of action or make a decision even though failure is a possibility. Risk takers realize that no one succeeds at every turn, and sometimes more can be learned from failure than success.

Creativity:

The ability to use originality, innovation and imagination to solve problems or dream dreams. A creative leader thinks "outside the box."

Confidence:

The steady belief or trust in yourself and your abilities. The opposite of confidence is low self esteem or feeling worthless.

Self-Discipline:

The ability to control your actions and order your behavior appropriately.

Honesty:

Having the truthfulness and integrity in your actions and dealings with others.

Sense of Humor:

is an ability to see the lighter side of a situation or circumstance. The key to having a sense of humor is having the ability to not take yourself too seriously. Leaders can laugh at themselves.

Suggested activities:

1. Have youth identify one person, preferably someone who is well known to the group, who exhibits each character quality, and discuss in a group setting why they think each person listed exhibits that particular quality.
2. Have the youth rank which characteristics from the list they think are most important in a leader, and why.
3. Have the youth identify which attributes they feel they already possess, and which ones they need to develop more strongly. Discuss possible ways to develop each attribute.

Faith-Based Resources:

St. Mary's Press

SMP, a Catholic organization, features over 50 trainings manuals, books, resources and publications on Hispanic Youth Ministry, Retreats, Games and Activities, Religious Education Curriculum, Leadership Development and other published youth development resources. SMP also offers workshops for both youth leaders and their adult mentors upon request.

Hispanic Ministry Center/Urban Youth Workers Institute

HMC, a partner organization of the National Network of Youth Ministries, hosts the largest Christian urban youth workers conference in the western regional United States each year in May. The event gathers over 1,200 urban leaders from numerous denominations and ethnicities for training, networking, and refreshment. HMC provides year-round training and mentoring following the conference through their staff and resources provided on their website.

National Study of Youth and Religion

NSYR has a listing of links to 27 Youth Ministry Centers, Programs and Organizations that are helpful to those involved in youth ministry.

Youth Leadership Training Resources

Tomorrowspresent.org provides several Youth Leadership Development resources from a Catholic perspective for teens that are tailored to different faith traditions in addition to training materials encouraging interfaith dialogue.

Secular Resources:

Youth Leadership.Com

Youth Leadership.com has a library of youth leadership publications, listing of journals and magazines, organizations and websites, conferences and programs as well as professional development opportunities related to youth leadership development.

The Search Institute

The Search Institute offers training sessions on Youth, Money, and Assets, Service-Learning, Youth Leadership and Youth Empowerment in Your Community. The Search Institute has a variety of printed resources available for online purchase.

New Light Leadership Coalition

NLLC provides a curriculum outline, training modules and an extensive list of recommended readings to correspond to the curriculum. NLLC also hosts Youth Leadership Development Trainings Program for schools and organizations upon request.

Effective Communities Project

This is a model for developing a community-based youth leadership development program. The website is organized around: program evaluation, organizational effectiveness, strategic grant making and capacity building. ECP also provides Leadership Skill Development training for youth, staff persons and volunteers.

Fire Starter Youth Power Curriculum

As a free online tool, The Firestarter Curriculum works with young people to educate, engage, and empower this generation of social change leaders. The website also includes excellent resources and links to how-to sites that can help youth take action and change their communities.

Center for Youth Development and Policy Research

The Academy for Educational Development is a wonderful resource for information about youth development trends, best practices, toolkits and other related publications.

The Innovation Center

The innovation center has a wealth of practical materials—training programs, tool kits, and other vehicles—to strengthen organizations, advance the field of youth development, and promote social justice.