

Marine Corps Leadership Traits

The 14 leadership traits are qualities of thought and action which, if demonstrated in daily activities, help Marines earn the respect, confidence, and loyal cooperation of other Marines. It is extremely important that you understand the meaning of each leadership trait and how to develop it, so you know what goals to set as you work to become a good leader and a good follower.

JUSTICE: the practice of being fair and consistent. Consideration is given to each side of a situation and bases rewards or punishments on merit.

JUDGEMENT: the ability to think about things clearly, calmly, and in an orderly fashion so that one can make good decisions.

DEPENDABILITY: being relied upon to perform your duties properly. To be trusted to complete a job and the willingness and voluntary support of the policies and orders of the chain of command. Consistently putting forth your best effort in an attempt to achieve the highest standards of performance.

INITIATIVE: taking action even though you haven't been given orders. Meeting new and unexpected situations with prompt action. Using resourcefulness to get something done without the normal material or methods being available.

DECISIVENESS: the ability to make good decisions without delay. Get all the facts and weight them against each other. By acting calmly and quickly, one should arrive at a sound decision. You announce your decisions in a clear, firm, professional manner.

TACT: the ability to deal with people in a manner that will maintain good relations and avoid problems. To be polite, calm, and firm.

INTEGRITY: being honest and truthful in what you say or do. Putting honesty, sense of duty, and sound moral principles above all else.

ENTHUSIASM: a sincere interest and exuberance in the performance of your duties. If you are enthusiastic, you are optimistic, cheerful, and willing to accept the challenges.

BEARING: the way you conduct and carry yourself. Your manner should reflect alertness, competence, confidence, and control.

UNSELFISHNESS: avoid making yourself comfortable at the expense of others. Be considerate of others. Give credit to those who deserve it.

COURAGE: what allows you to remain calm while recognizing fear; Moral courage means having the inner strength to stand up for what is right and to accept blame when something is your fault. Physical courage means that you can continue to function effectively when there is physical danger present.

KNOWLEDGE: the understanding of a science or art. The acquiring of information and that you understand people. Your knowledge should be broad, and in addition to knowing your job, you should know your unit's policies and keep up with current events.

LOYALTY: devoted to your country, the Corps, and to your seniors, peers, and subordinates. The motto of our Corps is Semper Fidelis!, (Always Faithful). You owe unwavering loyalty up and down the chain of command, to seniors, subordinates, and peers.

ENDURANCE: the mental and physical stamina that is measured by your ability to withstand pain, fatigue, stress, and hardship. For example, enduring pain during a conditioning march in order to improve stamina is crucial in the development of leadership.