

A Leadership Dialogue

During this workshop, you will be exposed to and have a chance to practice leadership, ethical decision-making, respect for others, problem-solving, effective communication, time management, civility, and working in a diverse environment. Watch and learn from others. Know that others will be watching you. When you return to your school and community, use what you've learned in the workshop and act like a leader at all times.

When confronted with an ethical challenge, it is useful to have a frame of reference or model to guide your decision-making. Here is a simple ethical decision-making model: A Cadet will not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do. (West Point Cadet Honor Code) Here is another decision-making model:

“A leader seeks to discover the truth, discern what is right and has the courage to act in accordance with that which he has discerned.”

“Doing the right thing” requires moral courage. Not everyone we owe respect has earned it. Giving respect at all times, even to those who have not earned it, is a sign of an exemplary leader. During the workshop, show respect and expect to receive it.

You will see Cadets model the traits expected of an exemplary leader. Learn from the Cadets and the other workshop participants. These lessons-learned will add to your problem-solving skills arsenal.

Leaders become better problem solvers by solving problems. See problems as opportunities to excel. Understand, to be an effective leader you must first be an effective follower. Recognize, throughout your life, you will be continually alternating between these roles.

Most problems require effective communication to solve. Effective communication involves effective listening, speaking, writing, reading, and body language. When communicating, it is important to be “present” to those with whom you are speaking. Great leaders are great communicators. Practice being a great communicator during the workshop.

Leaders accomplish the mission on time. They are attentive time managers. The workshop is purposefully designed to ensure you feel the pressure of doing an exemplary job within the time allotted. Use your time wisely. Have a team member monitor how you are progressing in meeting your goals.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower categorized and prioritized his tasks by the following: 1. Important and Urgent, 2. Important and Not Urgent, 3. Urgent but Not Important, 4. Not Urgent and Not Important. If that approach make sense to you, use it. If not, find another.

Strive for exemplary leadership by developing competence, high moral character, and commitment to making right choices now and in the future. This workshop is a step to help you achieve these traits. Have a great experience!