

Leadership Checkup

Introduction

In this leadership reflection chapter, you'll have an opportunity to think about and check on your growth and development as an officer. Because one of the responsibilities of the post president is to "assess on an ongoing basis whether the responsibilities of the officers are being carried out effectively," the president should ensure that the checkup becomes an integral part of officer training.

Take this checkup on a regular basis, at least every three months. A good time to do this would be in your officers' meetings. In addition, it probably is a

good idea to have the participants in your post take this checkup as well, so that you have a comparison of how they feel and how you feel.

During this checkup, be sure that you

- Are honest with yourself and one another
- Give yourself credit for your growth and development
- Consider your own growth as an individual officer and the growth of your youth leadership team as a whole
- Be as specific as possible

What happens in this checkup is helpful to each officer because you get a better feeling for your strengths and what you've accomplished as an individual officer and as a youth leadership team. You'll not only have a chance to look back, you'll also have the opportunity to see what you would like to work on and accomplish in the next three months. You'll find that accomplishing specific goals is motivating: It spurs you on to want to accomplish other specific goals.



CHECKUP POINTS

First, complete the following individually, and second, discuss your responses as a group. It is important that you think through and answer these questions on your own before discussing your responses with one another.

1. Describe specific areas of growth. Growth refers to anything you've learned or gotten better at, like making presentations, listening to others, being on time, doing the little things you used to avoid, letting others lead, encouraging others, or taking the lead where once you might have held back. Think of anything that shows some kind of growth.

Describe areas in which *you* personally have grown:

2. Rate your youth leadership team on the following scales in terms of how you feel you have worked to achieve the goals of Exploring and carried out your individual responsibilities.

Goal 1: Gain practical experience in the career or interest of the post.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Goal 2: Engage in a program of activities centered on the five program emphasis areas to encourage an understanding of and the development of the whole person.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Goal 3: Experience positive leadership from adult and youth leaders and be given opportunities to take on leadership roles.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Goal 4: Have a chance to learn and grow in a supportive, caring, and fun environment.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

3. Explain the ratings you gave in the previous question.

4. Describe specific moments of leadership that you've taken notice of since the previous checkup. Describe actual experiences you were a part of or observed.

First, in regard to yourself:

Second, in respect to any of the other officers:

Third, in respect to post participants:

In your group discussion, share your examples where you saw other officers or participants demonstrate special moments of leadership. Keep the examples about yourself to yourself, and see whether anyone else noticed these examples in regard to you. If they didn't, that doesn't take away from the significance of those experiences for you. In addition, see whether you are surprised by any examples that others observed about you, that you missed or didn't think were important.

- 5. Set goals based on these questions and needed areas of improvement. Think about your responsibilities as an individual officer and the four goals of Exploring. What do you think are realistic goals for yourself and for your leadership team?

First, in regard to yourself:

Second, in regard to your leadership team as a whole:

In the discussion following this checkup, try to come to a consensus about the specific areas of growth for you as a youth leadership team, and talk about specific ways to achieve this needed growth.