TEAM AND TODDLERS: WHY FORMING A TEAM IS LIKE PLAYING WITH PLAY-DOH

Brenna Leary, Content Creator

As a kid, my favorite pastime was to play with Play-Doh. It is the best children’s toy, and if anyone disagrees with me I will fight them on it until they either walk away or agree with me. Here is a comprehensive list of what makes Play-Doh so great:

1. It comes in a million different colors. People love color. The world went nuts with the invention of color TV. Why? Because black and white is boring.


3. It’s squishy. It is a scientific fact that people love things that are squishy. Mashed potatoes are more fun to eat than baked potatoes. Bean bags are more fun to sit on than chairs. Play-Doh is the best toy because it is moldable.

It turns out that the things that make Play-Doh so great are also the things that get me excited about working on new teams. Think about the traits of Play-Doh in the context of Forming. The different colors are the different people on the team, and the various experiences and ideas they bring. Forming is colorful and exciting because, in this stage, the possibilities are endless! The team can mold their vision and draw on their many shared and unique experiences. In the Forming stage, the team can build their vision into whatever they want it to be.

It is important to remember Forming is an exciting and dynamic state filled with high enthusiasm and team spirit. Do not be discouraged if your team slips back into Forming! Shifting back into the Forming stage simply means that the team members have the unique opportunity to look back to the experiences and ideas they share, as well as the ones that make them unique, and use those things to build a vision that is better and more vibrant than the last one.

Remember that Forming is fun, fabulous, and build something incredible!
Teaching Transformation: What Makes NYLT Leadership Academy Tick
Catie McEntee, 2015 NYLT Leadership Academy Senior Patrol Leader

Call if a leadership development course. Call it a train-the-trainer course. Call it a meeting of the minds. Yes, these are things that describe the NYLT Leadership Academy. But these labels come nowhere near the essence of the Academy.

It’s hard to describe the nature of a life-changing experience to someone who hasn’t been through one quite like this. What I can definitely say is that I wouldn’t be the person I am proud to be today if I hadn’t attended the Academy, and I know many others say the same. I’ve seen countless youth graduate from the Academy and say, “This course changed my life.” “I’m so thankful that I had this opportunity.” “This was the best week of my life.” I will attempt to explain why.

On paper it seems simple enough: learn some presentation skills, exchange ideas with other NYLT staff, and hopefully make a few friends. Learn to be a stellar NYLT staff member and put on a great course! These are wonderful things, and if our course ended there it would still be an incredible investment for any youth. But the Academy is much more than the sum of its parts.

The effect of bringing together talented youth staff from throughout the nation, in an open, supportive, enabling environment, with guidance from the unbelievably dedicated Academy staff, is truly transformational. What I learned in my week at the Academy was more than just skills. I learned about myself, my goals, my values, and my vision. I learned about my desire to help people and my potential to do so. I met incredibly talented people and forged friendships that I know will last long beyond my Scouting “youth years.” I developed a thirst for constantly improving myself, my course, and my world. These are the traits that I believe make the world a better place. They’re things that can’t simply be taught, but must be inspired within others. They take not skill presentations but careful mentoring over a period of time. They take not a detached professor but a caring, invested peer who will stop at nothing to help you reach your goals. The NYLT Leadership Academy staff is incredible at doing just that, and they’ve been doing it for years.

As Senior Patrol Leader of the 2015 NYLT Leadership Academy, I will strive to continue this legacy by creating an experience that will positively and substantially affect the lives of every youth that attends next summer. I hope you’ll be one of those youth. I know you won’t be disappointed, but you don’t have to take it from me. Take it from fellow Scouts who rave about their experience. Take it from Scoutmasters who have seen the incredible things that Academy-trained youth can do. Whatever you do, don’t miss out on the experience of a lifetime! Registration opens soon!
What is the secret to fame? Oftentimes, it is to be outstandingly different. Sometimes, it even takes doing some crazy stunt no one has ever done before.

Leaders gain their fame in a very different way, though. Of course, many decide to do different, crazy things, but they do not lead for fame; fame comes to them.

Many leaders become famous through doing amazing things for society. Leaders promote passion, selflessness and ultimately, inspiration. One of the most powerful abilities of a leader is to help others by accomplishing one or more great visions.

When looking at examples of famous leaders in our society, many have fallen into the public eye. While, some fame does not move millions and creates a positive change, a few celebrities have been able to use their fame for good.

We could take Bono, for example. The Irish front man for the band U2 had become increasingly popular through the band’s success, and still maintains a solid musical career. In 1979, he became inspired in charity work and its effects after seeing the Secret Policeman’s Ball, a series of shows meant to raise money for the Amnesty International. During the mid-1980’s, Bono united fellow artists Sting, Bob Geldof, and Peter Gabriel to create the Band Aid Trust, Live Aid Foundation, the Witness human rights group, etc., all focused on solving human rights issues.

This was only the beginning for Bono’s roll as a human rights activist. Through his inspiration, charisma, and passion to help society, he has created other foundations based on social justice, many of which involve ending world hunger and ending racism.

Bono would serve as an example of someone who could have just stopped at money and fame. Instead, he uses his band’s success to help those who are not able to help themselves and to unite those who want to help. Many stars have followed in his footsteps, including Beyoncé and Angelina Jolie.

Another star to have manifested servant leadership was Princess Diana, the “people’s princess.” Her legacy is best manifested in her campaigns against the use of land mines and helping those suffering from AIDS. Risking her life to help those in need, she set the example of what selflessness truly is.

During the 1980’s, it was believed AIDS was a disease transmitted through casual contact. Thanks to Princess Diana, the common belief was soon cleared as a video of her holding the hand of an AIDS victim was broadcasted. More so, during her campaign against land mine use, another video of her walking through a field where land mines could have been placed was exposed.

Even as these videos set uproars throughout the public, she inspired many to give more of themselves for the sake of others, no matter the cost. Her sons, Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, and Prince Harry constantly take part in large charity events, presenting their mother’s legacy.

Through these stars, we see there is no boundary for service.
THE QUEST

THE ADVENTURES OF WALTER

A FEW WEEKS AGO...

WALTER AND SKIPBO FOUND THEMSELVES ON A MYSTERIOUS LAKE...

SKIPBO?

...IT'S SORT OF LIKE FISHING?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

leaderw have visions. WHEN YOU PUT YOUR ROD IN THE WATER, YOUR VISION IS TO CATCH A FISH; RIGHT?

SURE...

Even if you have to keep patience and balance for long hours, you do your best to catch the fish; your vision.

Sometimes you might realize you have to change your bait so more fish will come, but failing and learning from it is just part of the fun.

Sometimes you have to look really deep to find and accomplish your vision.

Want to follow Walter on his journey?

I'M ON FACEBOOK!

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There are two main types of leadership, autocratic leadership, and servant leadership. Autocratic leadership is best stated as leader first leadership. The leader will put themselves and their views above the views and opinion of the team. Autocratic leadership can be pictured in the way of a business, there is the boss and there are the workers. The boss is the one who directs the orders leading to their own personal vision, and the workers are expected to follow without question. When the autocratic leader is creating their vision they create their own vision, not the vision of the team. They also tend to not have a very personal relationship with their team members, and this may lead to a constant state of storming in the group. This form of leadership is successful in some scenarios, but does not allow a team to fully reach the performing stage.

On the other hand there is the form of leadership known as servant leadership. Servant leadership is people first leadership, where the leader puts the needs of their team before themselves. Servant leaders will not be the boss and just give out orders, they will gain the respect of the people and make them want to fulfill the leader’s vision on their own will. As quoted by John C. Maxwell “Leadership is unlocking people’s potential to become better.” A servant leader is one who will work to develop their people to the best they can be, who in turn will happily help them to complete their vision. Servant leaders will also take in account the whole team while creating their vision, giving each member ownership in the task they are out to complete. By giving the team a common vision they all share, the servant leader is able to motivate the team to success. A strong characteristic shown by servant leaders is how they will lead the team through a task, not just stand and watch them complete it. A few of the most well known servant leadership characteristics are listening, empathy, healing, awareness, persuasion, conceptualization, foresight, stewardship, growth, and community. One of the greatest servant leaders of all time, was the religious figure Jesus Christ. Jesus always put the needs of the people before himself, and in turn he became one of the most followed leaders in all of history. This form of leadership is seen as the most effective leadership style known today.

Since the republishing of The Quest this past August, my team has been working tirelessly to provide you with some of the best content driven toward leadership skills that you can apply in yourself and your home NYLT course. We hope you have enjoyed these past three editions and look forward to reading many more.

As we head into the winter months, this publication will be going under major design and content changes in order to improve reader satisfaction. However, we can not do this without you. If you have any comments or ideas that you would like to see in this publication, please share them with us at newsletter@nylt-leadershipacademy.org.

I hope you enjoy this month’s edition and I look forward to hearing from you again when The Quest returns in January of 2015.

Yours in Scouting,

Dante Rodondi
Publications Chair