

What is a Leader? It's a Way of Life...

This is a familiar subject. Much discussion, voluminous research and numerous books have been written about the who, why, where, when and what of it. The lack of it is often a topic on the nightly news. Those who exhibit it are admired and sought after. Those who aspire to it and achieve it are often dismayed by the effects it has on their personal lives. It's safe to say Leadership is a Phenomenon with a capital P.

-Beth Gentry Mannle

Rather than focusing on leadership as defined by positional responsibility, let's focus on leadership that emanates from an individual as the "function of their commitment to making a difference for the benefit of self and others."

-UCLA study on Leadership, looking at some of the brightest minds in academia and business.

A leader is not necessarily a person who holds some formal position of leadership or who is perceived as a leader by others. Rather, we regard a leader as one who is able to effect positive change for the betterment of others, the community, and society. All people, in other words, are potential leaders. Moreover, the process of leadership cannot be described simply in terms of the behavior of an individual; rather, leadership involves collaborative relationships that lead to collective action grounded in the shared values of people who work together to effect positive change.

-The Higher Education Research Institute (1995)

Exemplary leaders realize you do "sweat the small stuff."