



The Intricacies and Importance of Service, Character, and Leadership

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In this ever-changing world, the embodiment of the virtues of service, character, and leadership, have remained of profound significance. Each of these traits are known to be pillars of an outstanding citizen. However, the standard definitions of these virtues fail to deliver detailed explanations of said significance. I will dive into these interconnected virtues' intricacies and illuminate their importance beyond a dictionary definition. As well as illustrate how I have utilized these virtues throughout my time in JROTC.

Service is more than the act of assistance or extra work. Supplying service to those in need is a sacrifice of time and energy, yet it is capable of welding everlasting bonds with your peers. Throughout my years in JROTC, I have utilized the act of service through participating in community services, Honor Guard events, recruiting and Kitty Hawk tutoring. Service, in particular, helps to build a solid foundation for additional virtues.

Character is most commonly associated with the qualities and traits of an individual. It also encompasses an individual's ethical values, moral compass, and integrity. Character can assist in building a healthy and trusting environment among peers. I wish for my cadets to succeed in the program, it is my responsibility to create an environment built on the principles of

character. I strive to be a role model for them to follow. That includes wearing the uniform correctly, attending community services, attending corps-related events, and following the Cadet Honor Code. However, more than simply displaying ideal characteristics may be necessary. Sometimes, more applied help is needed. Typical examples would be assisting cadets in adjusting ranks on their uniforms before inspections, or giving a pair of helping hands in community service events. It paints a vivid picture of the kind of mentality I want my cadets to shoot for. In addition, it lightens the load of the final virtue immensely.

At its core, leadership is an art form. It is the art of guiding, influencing, and motivating others towards a common interest. It is the ability to communicate efficiently and effectively among peers. Through exemplary leadership skills, it is possible for us to amount to anything. As a flight sergeant, being a leader is in the job description. My most basic tasks include taking attendance and grading uniforms during inspections; However, I do bear more responsibilities than that. I keep my cadets well-informed on events, help them in any way possible, and maintain a can-do attitude. It helps make me more approachable. I want them to feel able to converse with me about anything—from something as simple as homework assistance, to advice

on becoming a leader within our program. Eventually, they will be the people who take my position. Thus, I want to mentor them so they are ready to bear the responsibilities that come with running the program.

In conclusion, the triad of service, character, and leadership acts as the foundation of both personal and professional development. Service brews a sense of responsibility to help others in need, even if that means sacrificing time and energy. Character—one's integrity—guides individuals to formulate morally correct decisions, even in the most troubling scenarios. Leadership is the ability to assist, motivate, and bring the best out of others. These virtues act as the foundation of a superlative individual, which is what I strive to become during my JROTC career and beyond. For in this ever-changing world, the embodiment of an outstanding citizen will remain of profound significance.

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