



Doing What's Right

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Leadership, character, and service have become pillars of my day to day life. I am involved in Basha Air Force JROTC, in which cadets learn many life skills that will benefit them for a lifetime. These three qualities hold immense meaning to me as they guide me through my actions and define my purpose inside and outside of JROTC. Through JROTC I have had countless opportunities to embody these characteristics.

To begin, leadership is taking charge and inspiring others to reach their full potential while setting a positive example and guiding a team to a common goal. Being involved in JROTC has shown me that through leadership opportunities I can build my confidence, accountability, and provide me with the ability to motivate others. As Martin Luther King Junior once said, "A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus" (King). To me, this shows the powerful traits of communication a leader must have to be successful but also the importance of teamwork. The core proves how important it is to embody leadership skills by providing hands-on experience to develop and enhance my leadership skills. JROTC provides the opportunity to go to WILD (A leadership course), California, and opportunities to fill flight, and corps level leadership positions. For example, I am currently a Flight Sergeant and have been invited to California to visit SpaceX, Air Museums, and many other monumental structures.

Character is also a principle of being a leader.

Additionally, JROTC has taught me that character means how you think, feel and behave. Albert Einstein once said, "Weakness of attitude becomes weakness of character" (Einstein). This means that having a negative attitude ultimately leads to weakening your character. The program exemplifies the importance of building and strengthening positive character including integrity, respect, responsibility, and self discipline. For instance, we must maintain military bearing. I also strengthen my character by being involved in community services, activities, and discussions. For example, I have led multiple volunteer opportunities at Aimee's Farm Animal Sanctuary where we help disabled animals live a better lifestyle. JROTC emphasizes the importance of honesty, integrity, and respect. We do this by our core values being, "Integrity first, service before self, excellence in all we do." As a core and a program we represent these core values through activities on campus and outside of school.

One of the program's core values is "Service before self." My involvement in JROTC has expanded my understanding of what service truly means. We give back to our school by completing honor guards for football games, assemblies, and other large events. Mahatma Gandhi once said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself

in the service of others.” After reading this quote and analyzing it I think of service as placing others before yourself. JROTC emphasizes service through providing numerous volunteer opportunities, as well as opportunities to serve our school, selflessness and giving back to the community. We also have multiple occasions to convey the importance of service by volunteering to participate in campus cleanup. A senior in JROTC leads a core organization called Kitty Hawk Air Society. Cadets who choose to participate in Kitty Hawk will help tutor students inside and outside of the core. This year we are also looking forward to having larger projects within Kitty Hawk to help our school as a whole. As a core to give back to the community we have also led food drives, and fundraisers. One example is the Tunnels to Towers fundraiser which gives cadets a window of opportunity to donate to families that have lost first responders in the line of duty. This fundraiser allows the fallen heroes’ loved ones to rebuild their lives and pay their mortgages. Service is a key part of JROTC.

I anchor my life on the tenets of leadership, character and service by these values guiding my actions. Leadership shows me to inspire others and set a positive example. I show how important it is to have a positive character by exhibiting commitment even when faced with challenges. To me overall service means being selfless and giving back. I demonstrate the importance of this by showing my dedication to my country and community. These principles are vital as they shape not only conscientious citizens, but also effective leaders who are prepared to contribute meaningfully to the society.

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