

Matthew Grady
9/5/2013
Dr. Hobbs
ODED 3540

Team Leadership

Wes and I began by discussing our leadership styles. Specifically how we deal with stressful situations. In a specific group dynamic situation with campers, Wes had just taught a lesson on paddle strokes and his campers did not understand time after time. Wes became agitated. First he needed to take a moment to calm himself down he then tried to help his campers look at the situation from a different angle.

In an individual setting if Wes ends up in an emergency situation, because of the lack of emergency experience, he is very calm on the outside but nervous on the inside. He prefers to work together with his co-lead so they can rely on each other.

An Internal stressor that everyone has to deal with is being disrespected. If Wes has been disrespected he will usually let it be known. Situations that require an immediate decision can cause Wes to stress. Sometimes Wes may have a mental block, this is when he looks to his co-lead for help.

As co-instructors we both have many similarities and differences. When it comes to safety awareness Wes and I both are both very organized and usually have a game plan in mind. If our initial plan fails we agreed take a quick moment to regroup and try a new approach. In the long run we think this will play to our advantage. When it comes to emergency situations Wes and I both are very inexperienced. I'm sure between the two of us we could handle an emergency situation but it may not be pretty. In order for us to gain more experience we both need to work in more emergency situations.

When Wes has been disrespected he will make it a point to work out the situation with that individual. This is a difference we share. If I have been disrespected, depending on the situation, I will usually keep it to myself. If Wes realizes that I have been disrespected I feel that he can help in joining the gap between the individual that has disrespected me. This will help me in my role as a leader not to treat an individual different from the rest of the group.

In order for Wes and I to instruct our peers as leaders we have come up with a few items to keep us inline. We want too able to voice our opinions to each other. Let each other know whether an idea is solid or if there's a better option to go about something. Also before going into a teaching topic we want to make sure we are both on the same page. We also want to share the load with each other. Split the responsibilities up amongst us so that we can effectively and efficiently lead. Sometimes this will include shifting things up. We both may agree to help each other out by taking on a responsibility that will challenge us for the better.

Another one of our similarities is that we both are not very enthusiastic. We want to be supportive of each other and encourage each other. Before our teaching topics we agreed to take a moment to pump each other up.

When it comes to Wes and I leading effectively as a team there are a few characteristic of my own that could potentially hold us back. Time management is a big one. If I don't provide enough time for myself in my daily activities there is a

noticeable change. If I don't provide adequate time for sleep I can become very grumpy and frustrating. This could lead to an ineffective leadership style as a team. In order for me to act as a professional I need to work on my time management skills. Also organization within a teaching topic can get the best of me. In past teaching topics I have come into the lesson with jumbled thoughts and proceeded to skip around the lesson with no order. I am working on sticking to my lesson plan.

To succeed as a team Wes and I must work together. We both discussed our strengths and weaknesses and came up with some game plans to help each other out along the journey. For future lessons we both agreed to openly discuss the pros and cons of the lesson for each other.

This semester Wes is striving to make improvements as a leader, and I am here to help him. We both found that we become very nervous when teaching to our peers or elders. Wes is going to continue to improve communicating more effectively to participants. Some ways I will encourage and challenge Wes to improve his clear and concise communication are to, go through his lessons with him before hand to keep him on track, and help him verbalize words when he draws a blank.

Another area where we can both be supportive of each other is frustration. When we become frustrated we realized that we both tend to lose focus and sometimes become angry. Knowing that everyone becomes frustrated at some point we need to support each other. If Wes becomes frustrated I will pull him aside and let him take a minute to collect his thoughts. If we need to talk through it that is what we will do. Once Wes is ready I will encourage him to look at the situation from a different light. For me when I become frustrated I need my own time to sit back and see how and why the problem occurred then go at it again from a different angle. I will use my experience to challenge Wes.

I am very excited to see what challenges this semester brings. I know that working with my peers can be very difficult, but I also see the potential for reward and improvement. I look forward to working with Wesley to shape each other into better leaders.