

2nd Place EEWN Scholarship winner

How I See Myself as a Leader, Now and in the Future

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Throughout your life you always hear people say “Be a leader, not a follower.” I have always tried to follow that quote in everything I do. It is not always easy to do that, but it is always worth it.

Since eighth grade I have been part of the Community Awareness Program (CAP) in my town. The goal is to teach fifth and sixth graders the dangers of drugs and alcohol, ways to say no to peer pressure, and ways to control their actions. This is something only a few students decide to do because a lot of people do not believe in it. They do not agree with what is taught or do not think it makes a difference. I completely disagree because I believe that if you start teaching people at a young age, it gives them more time to absorb the information, allowing them to make better decisions. I am proud to be a leader to these younger students, to help them choose the right path in their lives, and to know that I was able to make a difference.



This year in field hockey my coach made me a captain. I questioned it at first because I knew I was not the most skilled player, but my coach told me I had the characteristics of a leader. She said I was always positive, I made good decisions, I dedicated myself to the team, I was a versatile player, and I would be able to lead the team to victory. Being a captain was a great experience that I will always remember. I loved being able to talk to the team before and after games, talking about what we need to improve on. I took the leadership position seriously. I did not just lead stretches or go up to the referees before a game to choose sides but I worked with the coaches to come up with new drills and I was able to come up with new plays. I feel like as a captain I made a difference to the team.

The future is never certain. I do not necessarily know what I want to do with my life, but I know that I will continue to be a leader. Recently I set goals for myself to reach before I turn thirty and one of them was to go to a third world country and help out. I want to do my part where I can. I want to go to a third world country and inform them and give them tools to help themselves. In college I plan on studying health sciences to become a nutritionist. I want to enlighten others on how important their health is. A lot of people do not realize how weight and overeating affects them. I want to help others change their lives around for the better so they are able to live longer.

There are many different ways to define leadership. A man named Alan Keith once said, “Leadership is ultimately about creating a way for people to contribute to making something extraordinary happen.” I’ve seen this trait in myself when I’ve taught CAP lessons, trying to get students to not make bad decisions. When I was a captain for field hockey I saw this trait in myself when I came up with new drills and plans to help out the team. In the future I plan on helping out poorer countries and unhealthy people so they can improve their lifestyles. Being a leader is important to me because I want to know that I have made a difference in the world. It is easy to be a follower and take the easy way out many times, but I have always liked a challenge because in the end it is completely worth it.