



Leaving your Legacy



"Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got a hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations." - George Bernard Shaw

What gives meaning to your life? What is your passion? What do you really care about? What are your values?

It is said that your life is defined not so much by what you get out of life, but what you give to others. It is defined by what you leave behind for future generations. As an Optimist Club President you have the opportunity to leave something significant. You have the opportunity to make a difference, not only in the lives of young people, but in the lives of your members. You will have one year to do it and the rest of your life to remember it. Make your Legacy worth Leaving.

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Purpose and Goals

Since you were chosen to lead your Club as it's President, your members have given you their confidence to lead them forward. You were elected to an Organization dedicated to "Bringing out the Best in Kids. Your "charge" is to help your Club succeed in this endeavor.

"Bringing out the Best in Kids" is our Organizational Goal. You and your Club may have specific goals to achieve this end.

In addition to your Club goals, you may have personal goals. Since your purpose is making others successful, your goals should compliment other people's goals. For example individuals may have goals to conduct specific projects. Since your goal is to help them succeed, your goals should blend that goal into yours.

"As a leader you should always start with where people are before you try to take them to where you want them to go." -- Jim Rohn

Helping others gives your life meaning and is a powerful legacy to leave.

"You can have everything in life you want if you'll just help enough other people to get what they want!" -- Zig Ziglar

Please answer the following questions:

What are your Club's Goals?

Complete a new service project?

Raise \$_____ funds for the kids in your community?

Add _____ new members to your roster?

Form a new JOOI youth club?

Other?



What are your Personal Goals?

- Become an "Honor" Club (President Name and Banner Patch)
- Become a "Distinguished" Club (President's watch)
- Other?

How will your Optimist Club be better after your Presidency?

**"A dream is just a dream. A goal is a dream with a plan and a deadline."
Harvey Mackay**

Chart your Progress



As the President and C.E.O. of your Club your job is to help others be successful. A chart is a good way to keep track of all of the individual and Club goals and your progress toward completing them. Keep in mind that each goal has a given priority and that since members are volunteering, not every intention will necessarily be completed. Your job is to recognize positive action, but not embarrass underachievers publicly. Respect everyone - put the performers on a pedestal.

A simple chart might include a list of volunteers and what they intend to do. Then put the dates at which each step in the process must take place. The

basic concept of leadership is to ASK someone to do something, coach and cheer-lead their progress, then RECOGNIZE their achievement.

Your Club as a whole can measure your impact by a graph of membership growth. As we discussed, more members equate with more service outreach. Increasing members is a sign of a well-run Club with service oriented volunteers who are having fun and are being appreciated by their leaders.

Making a Difference

“Leaving your Legacy” means making a positive difference in the lives of hundreds of young people. It also means making a difference in the lives of your volunteer members – making them all they can be.

What is left behind when you leave office? Have young people benefited by your activities? Have they embraced the spirit of Optimism held by your members? Have your members done something that they wouldn't have done without your leadership? Have they completed a project or attracted new members to make your Club stronger? Have you left people feeling up-beat and positive about “Bringing out the Best in Kids”?

Any Club President who starts out to serve others cannot help but personally grow themselves. When you dedicate yourself to such a cause, you acquire powers and forces that make you a better person as well.

“Deep within man dwell those slumbering powers. Powers that would astonish him; that he never dreamed of possessing; Forces that would revolutionize his life if aroused and put into action.”

Orisen Swett Marden

“Success is neither magical nor mysterious. Success is the natural consequence of consistently applying basic fundamentals.” -- Jim Rohn



The End of part 8: Leaving your Legacy



Congratulations! You have completed all parts of this series, “How to be a Great Club President”. Be a Great President! Leave your Legacy to your Optimist Club! [Go to “Top”](#)

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