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How Lifelong Learning Can Help You Be an Effective Community Leader

You don’t have to be a local politician or celebrity to be a leader in your community. If you possess certain traits that help you to represent and inspire change in your neighborhood or municipality, then you can be a community leader.

However, in order to be effective in your role, it’s essential to embrace the fact that you can always learn. Here are some simple tips and resources to help you on your journey of lifelong learning:

**Evaluating Your Strengths and Weaknesses**

*The first step in learning is understanding the areas in which you need to grow.*

* Consider how you would like to lead in your community, and make a list of all the [knowledge and skills](https://blog.taskque.com/characteristics-good-leaders/) necessary to make it happen.
* Then, make a list of the skills you already have, as well as the ones you need to [improve](https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/improve-your-personal-development-skills).
* Also, ask people in your life (e.g., bosses, family members, [friends](https://psiloveyou.xyz/why-you-should-ask-your-friends-to-name-your-strengths-5341a53fc2b2?gi=1b44e863ee81), etc.) what they consider to be your strengths and weaknesses.
* And take advantage of the many [personality tests](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/top-5-best-personality-tests-for-personal-and-professional_b_5a58fc79e4b0a233482e0ab2?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAABWhtMBOFJGDMAlxAIynVlGY5146ScMaexOI6TsZtSqwE3Ttrqm5OrbZ2ZmQ53i5Fw-zQuWT2HgGJcaNzVaPE31qVNiBOdqgWXrUtrTl-Ou-La7wt_4mSgomgZsk3pevtMwPm0tocx94GBFbcf_Rugt-_xbbrv8wlAopMk1d8GmZ) out there.

**Furthering Your Education**

*Going back to school not only can help you improve your knowledge and skills, but it can also open doors for your career and community leadership.*

* Read as many [leadership books](https://www.fastcompany.com/90444387/13-books-that-ceos-think-you-should-read-in-2020) as you can.
* Find a [mentor](https://www.forbes.com/sites/jillgriffin/2020/01/23/how-to-find-a-great-mentor/) who can provide practical guidance and advice throughout your journey.
* Dive into [podcasts](https://www.rebeccaelvy.com/2018/01/20/leadership-development-podcasts/) that can deepen your leadership abilities.
* [Pursue](https://www.wgu.edu/online-business-degrees/mba-masters-business-administration-program.html) a leadership-oriented degree, such as a masters of business administration.

**Serving Others**

*Few things can move along your efforts to learn like volunteering in your community.*

* If you are a youth, consider joining [Scouts BSA Troop 409](https://bsatroop409.com/) to engage in activities of helping the community and helping lead other youth.
* Look for local [non-profits](https://www.thebalancesmb.com/guide-to-volunteer-opportunities-online-2502585) where you can serve.
* Offer to [tutor](https://www.mytutor.co.uk/blog/teaching-skills-from-tutoring/) one or more students on a regular basis.
* Visit senior centers and [nursing homes](https://www.aarp.org/caregiving/health/info-2020/nursing-home-visits-after-coronavirus.html) in your area to spend time and learn wisdom from a wide range of individuals.
* Organize yard sales, [car washes](https://www.fundraisingzone.com/profitable-youth-group-fundraising-ideas/car-wash-fundraising-ideas/), and/or other types of fundraisers in your neighborhood.

If you want to be a great community leader, remain open to any ways that you can grow your knowledge and skills. Constantly assessing your strengths and weaknesses, continuing your education, and volunteering in your community are some of the best ways to foster lifelong learning. Remember that the more you know and can do, the better you will be able to help others.

To learn more about volunteering opportunities with [Scouts BSA Troop 409](https://bsatroop409.com/), call or email today!   
631-445-9319 | [CSTroop409@gmail.com](mailto:CSTroop409@gmail.com)

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