



Sovereign Nation of the Chiricahua Apache

Robert Chokonen Van Fleet ~ Nantan
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Sage Advice from Your Nantan

Guiding Principles for Leadership and Life

Embrace the Power of Presence

In our fast-paced world, it's easy to get lost in the whirlwind of responsibilities and tasks. However, the true essence of leadership lies in being present. Whether you are leading a team, guiding a family, or navigating your personal journey, being fully present in the moment allows you to connect deeply with others, understand their needs, and respond with genuine care and consideration. The power of presence fosters trust, strengthens relationships, and creates a foundation for meaningful and lasting impact.

Cultivate a Growth Mindset

Life is a continuous journey of learning and growth. As a leader, it is crucial to embrace a growth mindset, recognizing that challenges are opportunities for development rather than obstacles. Encourage yourself and those around you to view setbacks as stepping stones to success. Celebrate the progress made, no matter how small, and foster an environment where curiosity and innovation thrive. A growth mindset not only propels you forward but also inspires others to reach their full potential.

Lead with Integrity and Authenticity

Integrity and authenticity are the cornerstones of effective leadership. Being true to your values and principles, even in the face of adversity, builds credibility and earns the respect of those you lead. Authentic leaders are transparent, honest, and consistent in their actions, creating a culture of trust and loyalty. By leading with integrity, you set a powerful example for others to follow and create a legacy of honor and ethical conduct.

Prioritize Self-Care and Well-Being

To lead others effectively, you must first take care of yourself. Prioritize your physical, mental, and emotional well-being by incorporating self-care practices into your daily routine. Whether it is through exercise, meditation, hobbies, or quality time with loved ones, nurturing your well-being enables you to show up as your best self. Remember that self-care is not selfish; it is essential for sustaining your energy, resilience, and capacity to lead with compassion and clarity.

Foster a Culture of Collaboration

Great leaders understand the power of collaboration and teamwork. Create an environment where diverse perspectives are valued, and everyone feels empowered to contribute their unique strengths. Encourage open communication, active listening, and mutual respect. By fostering a culture of collaboration, you harness the collective wisdom and creativity of your team, driving innovation and achieving shared goals.



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Practice Gratitude and Appreciation

Gratitude is a transformative practice that enhances your well-being and strengthens your connections with others. Take time to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts and contributions of those around you. Expressing genuine gratitude fosters a positive and uplifting environment, boosting morale and motivation. Your appreciation can inspire and elevate others, creating a ripple effect of positivity and support.

Embrace Change and Adaptability

Change is an inevitable part of life and leadership. Embrace it with an open mind and a flexible attitude. Adaptability allows you to navigate uncertainty and seize new opportunities with confidence. Encourage your team to be agile and resilient, viewing change as a chance for growth and innovation. By embracing change, you position yourself and your team for continuous improvement and success in an ever-evolving world.

Invest in Lifelong Learning

The pursuit of knowledge is a lifelong journey. As a leader, commit to continuous learning and personal development. Stay curious, seek out new experiences, and embrace opportunities to expand your skills and knowledge. Encourage a culture of learning within your team, where everyone is motivated to grow and evolve. Lifelong learning keeps you relevant, informed, and equipped to lead with wisdom and insight.

Lead with Empathy and Compassion

Empathy and compassion are essential qualities of a truly impactful leader. Take the time to understand the perspectives, emotions, and experiences of those you lead. Show genuine care and concern for their well-being and offer support when needed. Leading with empathy fosters a sense of belonging and strengthens the bonds of trust and loyalty. Compassionate leadership inspires others to follow your example and create a positive and inclusive environment.

Leave a Lasting Legacy

True leadership is not just about the present; it is about leaving a legacy that continues to inspire and impact others long after you are gone. Reflect on the values, principles, and contributions you want to be remembered for. Strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those you lead and empower them to carry forward your vision and mission. By leaving a positive legacy, you create a ripple effect of influence that extends far beyond your reach.



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In conclusion, the sage advice of your Nantan serves as a guiding light for navigating the complexities of leadership and life. By embracing these principles and embodying the qualities of presence, growth, integrity, self-care, collaboration, gratitude, adaptability, lifelong learning, empathy, and legacy, you can lead with wisdom and create a profound and lasting impact in the world. Remember that leadership is a journey, and every step you take in alignment with these values brings you closer to becoming the best version of yourself and inspiring others to do the same.

Finally, I give you this list;

- Do not eat or use products from any animal that is fed and eats parts of its own dead
- Do not kiss or have intimate relations with anyone you do not know.
- Learn basic sanitation and water purification.
- Be comfortable around firearms, learn to shoot and clean the gun you choose.
- Get a superior quality first aid kit and learn to use it.
- Find five (5) people within 100 miles that you trust with your life and stay in contact with them.
- Get a copy of the US and the Tribal Constitution and read them.
- Eat less.
- Get a bicycle and two sets of tires and ride it at least 10 miles per week.
- Lastly, consider what you would bring with you if you had to leave your home in ten (10) minutes and never return.

Respectfully,

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