

Environmental Leadership Notes

Earth & Sky Camp 2018 🌍 University of Montevallo

“There are no passengers on Spaceship Earth. We are all crew.” ~Marshall McLuhan

Be the change you want to see in the world. To do this, you must first change yourself.

- ❖ **Character matters.** Character is who you are in your inmost being—and what you do when no one is watching.
- ❖ **Build bridges, not walls.** Your connections in life often determine your success.
- ❖ **Surround yourself with the kind of people you want to be.** To have and keep positive relationships, you must first be a trustworthy friend. That takes effort (and is a two-way street).
- ❖ Find a **mentor**. Success in college, career, and life improve with them.
- ❖ **Be worthy of your mentors** and honor their time. If you can find the answer on Google, do not ask your mentor! Take your questions, answers, and plans as far as you can then seek advice.
- ❖ **It is better to give than to receive.** Successful people not only want others to succeed—they help them do so. The most successful (and well-liked) people are givers, not takers.
- ❖ **Read widely and deeply.** David makes his Life Leaders books and planbooks freely downloadable—start here: <http://lifeleadersinstitute.org/publications-and-presentations/>. Reading good fiction also can help you become a better (more moral) person.
- ❖ **Grit or Quit:** Know when to persevere (“grit”) – stick to the things that are both important and achievable, even if hard. But know when to quit or adjust, too. If something is not achievable, or sub-optimal, and especially if it is a distraction from a higher goal, then consider quitting or postponing. Sometimes, we “lose battles to win wars.”
- ❖ **Plan Your Life.** Write a personal plan with your mission, vision, goals.... Read it daily. Live by it. Write a journal with reflections on what’s working (and not) to keep understanding/improving.
- ❖ **Lead Your Life.** Decide to develop courage, commitment, and confidence. Pray (or meditate), Listen, Act Now (PLAN) daily to internalize callings and make personal course corrections.
- ❖ **WOOP (there it is!):** WOOP, an excellent course navigation tool, stands for Wish, Outcome, Obstacle, Plan. WOOP starts with your wishes but doesn’t end there. From your wish, what is an achievable outcome? What obstacles must you overcome to achieve this outcome? Now you have the starting components of a plan (chart, map) that leads to success and significance.
- ❖ **SMART Goals:** Another useful tool for setting better goals is the acronym SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound.

Spaceship Earth Course Correction Options

- ❖ **Junior Crewmember:** Change a light bulb. Wash clothes in cold water. Eat more plants and less meat. Buy less stuff. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (in that order). Adopt pets (avoid breeders). Travel less. Walk, bike, carpool. Join and volunteer with environmental and social justice organizations.
- ❖ **Officer:** Go solar. Purchase a gas-electric hybrid car or a full electric vehicle (even better). Recycle yourself—become an organ donor. Lead environmental and social justice efforts.
- ❖ **Commander:** Leave a legacy – donate your accumulated wealth to environmental and social justice efforts. Go car-free. Consider adopting or having fewer additional children (*having one fewer child has more positive environmental impact than all of the above, combined!*).