

Model for Outdoor Leadership

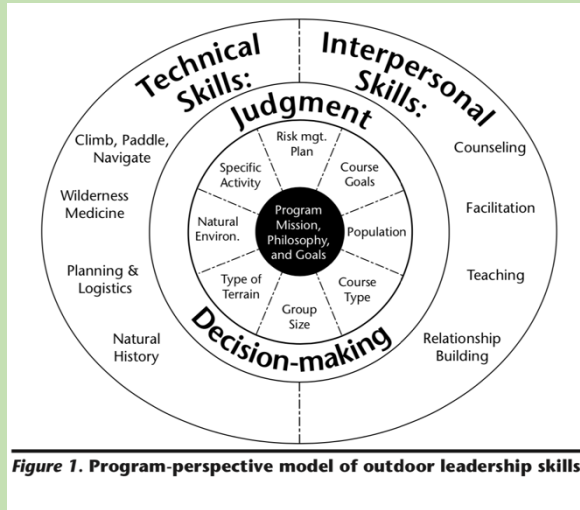


Figure 1. Program-perspective model of outdoor leadership skills

DID YOU KNOW?

Research has found that groups are nearly twice as creative when demonstrating a positive group dynamic.

Qualities to be a Good Leader!

- Be **knowledgeable** in the field you wish to be a leader in.
- Have strong **Communication** skills with your group! Pay attention to ALL group members and ensure everyone is participating.
- Have a high **Tolerance**. Teach skills and techniques that fellow group members might not possess.
- Be **Organised** with the trip that's planned. Ensure necessary items are packed (e.g. First Aid Kit)

Further Resources for Outdoor Leadership

Outdoor Leadership Blog -
<https://outdoorleaders.com/resources/>

Rethinking outdoor leadership: An Investigation of Affective Abilities in Australian Higher Education curriculum -
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333994135_Rethinking_outdoor_leadership_An_Investigation_of_Affective_Abilities_in_Australian_Higher_Education_curriculum

TAFE - Diploma of Outdoor Leadership
https://www.tafesa.edu.au/xml/course/aw/aw_TP01170.aspx

Selected University's – Bachelor of Outdoor Leadership

Outdoor Leadership



By Jack Dollard & Charlotte Gilroy

How can a leader create positive group dynamics?

Team dynamics is when a group of individuals work together towards a common goal or purpose

Each member roles and responsibilities work together to achieve this which the leader delegates to ensure a strong team dynamic is formed

These are the following methods leaders use to ensure a positive group dynamic:

- Understand your teams strengths and weaknesses
- Ability to address issues quickly and early on before they progress
- Create roles that fair and equal amongst the group
- Enhance the team culture
- Build the communication



The 3 Leadership Styles

There are three different types of leadership styles that are chosen based on the environment, group dynamic and group capabilities.

1. Autocratic

This style firmly directs the group with instructions and direct behaviours that they must follow. No responsibility is given to the group regarding decision making due to generally low capabilities and experience in the outdoors.

Example: Year 4 students with no outdoor experience

2. Democratic

This style of leadership is used when a group has a competent understanding of the outdoors and experienced outdoor activities prior. The leader uses a question-based decision-making process to allow to the group to think about their own decisions and make appropriate choices with the leader's assistance.

Example: Year 10 Outdoor Education Students

3. Autocratic

This leadership style allows the group to have full control of their own outdoor experience allowing the individuals to making their own decisions and solve problems together. This leader delegates roles and responsibilities to the group and only contributes if required.

Example: Outdoor Education University students



What is an Outdoor Leader?

An outdoor leader is someone who instructs and guides a group of individuals undertaking an adventure or outdoor activities.

They are in control of decisions to ensure all individuals are safe, feels inclusive and has an enjoyable time.

The activities that leaders of the outdoors may participate in are bushwalking, mountain bike riding, canoeing, caving, cross country, horse trekking, rock climbing and sailing.

Certain requirements to be an outdoor leader

- Enjoy outdoor activities
- High level of skill in outdoor activities
- Good administration and organizational skills
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Able to lead, motivate and supervise other people
- Strong decision-making skills
- Able to cope with the physical demands of the job

