

Seven Ways to Build Community Leadership

Give Potential Leaders a Job.

Everyone in the group should have some job or responsibility, but a leader/coordinator may need special kinds of jobs, such as:

- Researching information
- Holding meetings
- Calling neighbors about meetings or events
- Facilitating the meetings
- Generate ways to solve the problem

Create Obligations For Members/Potential Leaders.

- Bring four neighbors to the next meeting
- Speak at the Council of Churches meeting about the issue
- Be the spokesperson at the news conference
- Attend a conference/training about the issue

Peers Convince Potential Leaders to Act

Is there someone or some people who feel strongly about a possible leader, and can they talk with that person about getting involved/taking leadership?

- Who are some of the natural community leaders?
- What is the network of leadership?

Choose A Leader Who Is Directly Affected By The Issue.

- Who's being affected most by the problem/issue?
- Who has extremely creative ideas?
- Who has extremely practical ideas?

Use Shortcuts In Bringing Issues To A Head.

This delegating of tasks may develop one or more new leaders.

Heighten Emotions To Bring People Into Action.

People get more actively involved when they have strong emotions regarding the issue/problem.

Graduate Leaders/Members to New Levels of Experience.

Members and leaders should meet directly with the power figures involved in the issue and this contact may allow the group to become involved in new areas.