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How to Command the Respect of Your Team

By Mike Bosse

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When I was a child my father would take me ice fishing with him and his buddies. I remember very clearly the first time he took me out on the ice. I was so excited to be included in his fishing trip that I couldn't sleep the entire night prior.

So at 4:00am when my father came into the room to wake me, he was a little surprised to find me wide eyed and full of energy. When we got out onto the frozen lake I remember hearing the ice creak beneath the wheels of the truck as we slowly approached the small wooden shack that would house us from the elements for the remainder of the day.

I remember being concerned as the first `POP!' resounded from the crystal floor below. But then, I took one look at my father and all of my fears where dispelled. I knew that with my father at my side I was safe from harm.

Once inside the ice cabin we lit the small heater in the corner and my father went over some of the safety rules with me. After the initial talk on safety, the wooden plank which covered the 4 foot long by 2 foot wide hole in the ice was removed. One look into the murky darkness below and I became the poster boy for ice fishing safety.

My father went over the basics with me and then showed me how to properly drop the line and how to watch it for a bite from the fish.

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As he instructed me, I absorbed every bit of information he shared, and followed his lessons to the tee. I never questioned him, or desired anything else but to make him proud of me, and have fun. Over the course of that day I caught half a gallon of trout, and had the time of my life.

I often think back on this story when I am in a position to lead men. My father commanded not only my loyalty, but my respect, my devotion, and I surrendered to his command on blind faith.

As I reflect on the experiences in my life it becomes clear very quickly why this is. When I joined the military I had the opportunity to see this exact style of leadership in action. I found that the leaders who were loved by the unit, who commanded the respect of the men, and who without question would be followed into a hail of on coming bullets, were those who the men saw as 'father figures'.

All men who command this kind of following have one thing in common...

They honestly care about the well-being of their men.

No man or woman will follow you willingly unless they know that you have their best interest in mind. You cannot force the loyalty or respect of your team. Leaders who care for every person on their team are, not surprisingly, also the ones who produce the best results, because their teams care about them, and love working with them.

I blindly followed my father because I knew that he cared for me and would never allow misfortune to come to me if he could help it. Because of this, I also wanted to make him proud. The men and women you lead are the same way. They seek approval, desire respect, and want to be led by someone who is more concerned about them, than about their wallet.

Give your team respect and care about them as people, and you will see an amazing change in the attitudes and production of your team. True concern for your people builds respect, loyalty and great results. You will find that when you give to your team, they will give back to

you.

Respectfully,
Mike Bosse

Mike Bosse is the founder of www.LeadershipForge.com. He is also the editor for the "LeadershipForge Newsletter" a weekly publication which reveals hidden methods to improve your leadership skills in a goal oriented world.

Teaching Your Dog A New Release Command

By Adam Katz

Dear Adam,

At first, I want to thank you for your information in your book and give us such opportunity to join your forum so that we can discuss and ask about our loving dog.

(To read more about the book she's referring to, take a look at

)

It's so wonderful and precious to me.

I've also ordered your DVD a few days ago. I'm looking forward to it.

By the way, my problem is not in your book. I read some books and internet before I read your book. One of them suggested to use release command. And it was "OK". So I already taught my pup (9 months) "OK" for release. Now, I've read your book it's not a good idea to use "OK" but I've already taught him and I don't want to confuse him. I worry that if I change that word he think there are two release command.

What should I do? I appreciate any advice.

Thanks, Yumi

[To those readers who are new to my newsletter, we use a release command to tell the dog when the exercise is finished. This means we don't need to give the dog a double command by saying "down" and then saying, "stay". In essence, "down" means go into the down-position and stay there until I come back and give you your release command. There really isn't any time you would tell your dog down and not expect him to stay, and this is why the "stay" command is redundant.)

Dear Yumi,

Not to worry. Your dog always looks at every day as a new day. So, if tomorrow you decide that Okay

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isn't the release command anymore, first teach your dog the new release command, I like Take a Break, and then start correcting the dog if she gets up when you say, Okay. Just be sure you don't use the same voice inflection as you do when you say, Take a Break. Remember, the real reason you're changing your release command in the first place: You don't want your dog to accidentally mistake the word Okay in common usage for being able to get up and finish the exercise.

That's all for now, folks! Adam

Adam G. Katz is the author of the book, "Secrets of a Professional Dog Trainer: An Insider's Guide To The Most Jealously Guarded Dog Training Secrets In History." Get a free copy of his report "Games To Play With Your Dog" when you sign up for his free weekly dog training tips e-zine at:



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