



Civil Air Patrol

VISION & GOALS

Values for Living—Cadet Character Development Forum

INTRODUCTION

Each Values for Living character development forum helps Civil Air Patrol volunteers explore a virtue from multiple angles and practice that virtue through a hands-on activity. The combination of analysis and practice helps members internalize that virtue so it stays with them beyond the squadron meeting.

Excellence is impossible without **vision and goals**. Vision provides a sense of direction and purpose. Goals are the smaller, concrete steps that transform a vision into reality. In this lesson, we will study President Kennedy's vision and goal during the 1960s space race. We will discuss SMART goals and explore their effects on our lives. Finally, each participant will begin drafting a personal vision and relevant goal.

This lesson is suitable for online delivery.

PRECLASS CHECKLIST

Prior preparation is essential to success. Please prepare the following well ahead of time:

- If meeting online, be familiar with and test the online software platform
- Ensure that Cadet Facilitators have completed online training
- Prepare and test multimedia

ATTENTION GETTER

LARGE GROUP FACILITATED BY CHAPLAIN/CDI/COMMANDER (5-10 MINUTES)

Option 1: Media Clip. “How SMART Goals Got Us to the Moon.” One SMART goal helped make Kennedy's vision a reality. <https://vimeo.com/514094813/70d01e959f> (Download link included).

Option 2: Personal Story. Share a story about your vision for your life and the goals that have helped you realize that vision.

UNDERSTANDING THE DESIRED BEHAVIOR

ONLINE GROUP OR SMALL GROUP FACILITATED BY PHASE III CADET (15 MINUTES)

- The video distinguished between vision and goals. A vision is an inspirational picture of an ideal future state. Kennedy's vision was "for this nation to take a clearly leading role in space achievement." How can having a vision improve your life?
- How do goals make it easier to achieve your vision?
- Why do goals need to be measurable?
- Why do goals need to be time-bound?
- How can you tell whether a goal is relevant to your vision?
- What happens when we pursue goals that aren't relevant to our vision?

APPLICATION OF THE BEHAVIOR TO THEIR LIVES

LARGE GROUP FACILITATED BY CHAPLAIN/CDI/COMMANDER (15 MINUTES)

Several discussion prompts are listed below. Choose questions that are appropriate for your unit.

- How do vision and goals help you live the core values?
- What questions can you ask yourself to help identify a vision?
- How can you recognize a worthwhile vision?
- In what areas of your life would most improve from having a vision?
- How many different visions can you manage at one time?
- With whom will you share your vision and goals?
- When does it make sense to change your vision?
- When does it make sense to change your goals?

ACTIVITY

ONLINE GROUP OR SMALL GROUP FACILITATED BY PHASE III CADET (10-15 MINUTES)

Drafting a Vision and Goal

Please provide copies (digital or paper) of the activity worksheet to all participants. Each participant will use the worksheet to identify a personal vision and a SMART goal relevant to that vision.

Begin by giving the participants 2–3 minutes to brainstorm possible vision statements. Some suggestions are on the activity sheet. After 2–3 minutes, have each participant select one vision to share with the rest of the small group. Facilitators should share their vision first. Explain briefly why that vision is important to you.

Next, give the participants 2–3 minutes to brainstorm SMART goals for that vision. After 2–3 minutes, have each participant select one SMART goal to share with the small group. Facilitators should share their goals first. After presenting each goal, put the following questions to the group:

- Is it a SMART goal?
- How can I improve it?

Conclude by asking participants to display their vision and goal statements in a prominent place. Challenge them to report back to the group next month on their progress toward the goal.

LESSON SUMMARY AND WRAP-UP

LARGE GROUP FACILITATED BY CHAPLAIN/CDI/COMMANDER (5 MINUTES)

During the first years of the space race, the United States lacked a clear vision and a SMART goal. We had interests, but these were not tied to our identity as a nation. We had projects, but these were not focused on a specific, measurable goal. What happened? When it came to space exploration, we under-funded, under-performed, and under-achieved.

You, too, probably have interests and projects. But do you have a vision? Do you have goals?

Kennedy's vision and goal changed everything. He encouraged us to believe that we could be leaders in space exploration and showed us how to get there. His goal, to land a man on the moon and bring him safely home by the end of the decade, organized the best of our energies and skills. Kennedy motivated the country, focused our efforts, advanced science and technology, and inspired the world to dare ever more in the exploration of space.

We have all committed ourselves to excellence in service to community, state, and nation. Excellence is simply not possible without a vision and goals. Give yourself and those around you the gift of a vision and the gift of goals. Organize your efforts and energies. Motivate yourself to achieve ever more. Inspire others to follow your example.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Where there is no vision, the people perish." – Proverbs 29:18

"Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality." – Warren G. Bennis

"In order to carry out a positive action, we must develop a positive vision." – The Dalai Lama

"If you want to turn a vision into a reality, you have to give 100% and never stop believing in your dream." – Arnold Schwarzenegger

"Champions aren't made in the gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them: a desire, a dream, a vision." – Muhammed Ali

"Vision without execution is hallucination." – Thomas Edison