

Leadership 101

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How to Interview Successfully

If you are anything like me, you may tend to get a little nervous when it comes down to interview time. I am hoping that these pointers will help you feel more relaxed when you are "under the gun".

The most important thing to remember is that the people interviewing you are human too! They have all been in the hot seat themselves, so they know what you are feeling and they want you to succeed. They would tell you to have someone help you perform a practice interview before you go in for the real thing! I know that sounds odd, but if you have the opportunity to sound things out ahead of time, it will help you feel more confident during the real thing. **BE YOURSELF!**

In my opinion, the number one rule when interviewing is to just be yourself. It is easier than you may think to tell when someone is putting on a show or if that individual is being sincere, and sincerity is the best route. Get plenty of rest the night before, and try to relax while you're waiting to be called! If you go into any professional setting looking like you haven't slept for days, it is going to be a deterrent for those interviewing you. Finally, be attentive, and most of all, **SMILE!**

Get Your Members Pumped

Most of you will know what I am talking about when I say that one of the hardest responsibilities in leadership is to get the delegates' attention and keep it! It is difficult to be up on stage and feel like nobody is paying attention, or even cares what you are saying. A few quick tips for getting the delegation on their feet and ready to go may be what you need.

First and foremost, if you are not enthusiastic about what you are doing, they won't be either! When you walk into that room or onto that stage, it is imperative that your enthusiasm be written all over you! Second, start out by getting the audience involved in what you are doing. There are many icebreakers that are available to get this done. If you don't want to start with an icebreaker, start with a question such as "How does HOSA make a difference?" You can also get your audience hooked by starting on an interesting subject, giving them just enough to catch their interest, then pausing and telling them you will finish the story at the end of the program. Last but not least, be an informative leader. It is next to impossible for people to get enthused about something they know nothing about!
And, once again, be yourself!

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Editorial