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NYSARC Community Arts
America’s largest non-profit organization supporting people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities and their families since 1949
**Mission:** to integrate individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities into the community through exploration in the arts and recreation.

**Goal** is to help individuals reach the full potential of their creative and social abilities which enables them to achieve dignity and independence.

**Options**

- Acting 101
- Martial Arts
- Recreational Arts
- Technical Theatre
- Visual Arts
- Literary Arts
- Dance 101
- Team NYSARC: Community Outreach
- Creative Writing
- Line Dancing
- St. Lawrence NYSARC Community Arts Program
The NYSARC organization also provides a number of other services such as career opportunity assistance, guardianship, and fitness programs amongst others.
Incorporate volunteering into the class aspect of leadership development for hands-on learning while taking lessons from the class room and applying them to real life situations.
During my internship at the NYSARC Community Center, I worked primarily as an assistant in Visual Arts and Martial Arts classes. As an assistant to the class teacher, I came to realize that leadership amongst clients was largely based on patience, repetition, and encouragement.
Assisted Abby (art director) with lessons and helped members complete projects.
Roger “Doger”

-Illustrated passive leadership by motivating the group with his positive personality.

-He would always follow what the teacher instructed while helping others when needed

-Posed as conversation leader
Realized true leadership:
- Need to remember all group members construct a team, not just the leader
- Take an external evaluation of self in order to make improvements to leadership style
- Keeping optimistic goes a long way. It emanates around the room.
(Earth Day Play)

- Assisted with stage craft
- Participated in group practices
- Ran lines with plays cast members
Todd

Brought so much positivity each day to class and always brought energy to the group with his laughter and joking manner.
Leadership at NYSARC is exemplified by the employees who coordinate events on a daily basis as well as monitor and support NYSARC’s members.

By maintaining a good sense of humor, remaining light hearted and welcoming, and catering to the needs of each and every individual at NYSARC, the employees do a fantastic job of creating a pleasant environment conducive to cooperative group activities for volunteers and members alike.
What I’ve Learned

* The employees of NYSARC have shown me how a successful leader, in order to maximize the welfare of a group, must truly know the individuals for which they are responsible and cater their actions to help these individuals – all of whom have varying degrees of ability as well as differing circumstances.

* The reason that NYSARC has been such an amazing and fun experience is because the workers have such a close connection with the members, and this connection allows them to maintain a fun and friendly environment.

* My time at NYSARC has shown me that a successful leader is one who can interact with, help, and better the lives of others with very different circumstances and levels of ability than his/her own.

* Interpreting the environment and those present
* Maintaining a consciousness of others and of context
After completing my CBL experience at NYSARC I have found that I have become a more well-rounded individual, and am much better at finding comfort and connection with others in an environment I may not be as familiar with.

Learning from the example set by NYSARC’s employees, I found that I am able to connect with as well as help individuals with circumstances different than my own, and have found three traits to be immensely helpful in becoming a stronger leader:

1) Listen and observe – be patient
2) Be open to new people, places, and events – have an open mind
3) Always keep a good sense of humor and a light heart
Provide more information to students about each placement.

- Helps to better prepare student
- Prevents the reinvention of the wheel
- Helps to make volunteer more useful

More community interaction

- Utilize volunteer resource
- Keeps up excitement levels from extending the boundaries of a repetitive schedule
Thank you