

Neosho R-5 School District/Neosho Area Coalition

Suggestions to Emphasize the Importance of Good Character

Suggestion #1: Develop a bulletin board in the lobby or in an area where employees can see the character trait of the month. Give a certificate to employees who exemplify the character trait or take their picture and display it on the board.

Suggestion #2: Post the character trait and definition on your marquee and/or website.

Suggestion #3: Place the trait and definition on your computer's screen saver.

Suggestion #4: Incorporate information about character traits and the community emphasis on good character in new employee orientations.

Suggestion #5: Invite employees to contribute ideas for building character and demonstrating it to customers or other employees in the workplace.

Suggestion #6: Provide encouraging quotes and positive character messages for your clients and potential clients to hear while they are on hold.

Suggestions for Monthly Character Trait Activities

July – **Patriotism:** showing love and loyalty for our community, our state, and the United States of America.

Activity: Remind everyone in the organization how fortunate we are to be Americans. Play a CD of patriotic songs. Thank a veteran or someone currently serving in the military for his/her sacrifice.

July Affirmation – I am a patriotic person. I demonstrate my PATRIOTISM by showing love and loyalty for our community, our state, and the United States of America. I am proud to be an American.

August – **Commitment**: giving 100% in all that I do as a student, an employee, and in my personal life to be the best that I can be.

Activity: Recognize employees who have demonstrated commitment to the goals of the organization and who are committed to serving the customers or clients.

August Affirmation – I am a person with COMMITMENT. I give 100% in all that I do as a student, an employee, and in my personal life to be the best that I can be. I am a person who is committed to excellence. I am a Neosho Wildcat!

September – **Self-Control**: taking charge of yourself and your behavior as well as making good choices and being accountable for your decisions.

Activity: Discuss the importance of being able to delay gratification and use self-control in daily life. Recognize the employees and other people who are great examples of those who have self-control.

September Affirmation – I am a person with SELF-CONTROL. I take charge of myself and my behavior. I make good choices and am accountable for my own decisions because I am a person with SELF-CONTROL.

October – **Responsibility**: making good decisions about what you do and say while taking care of yourself and fulfilling your obligations.

Activity: Thank your employees frequently for being responsible for completing tasks, meeting deadlines, etc. Affirmation of a job well done will result in more of the desirable behavior and sends a message to those who aren't as responsible regarding what behavior the employer values.

October Affirmation – I am a RESPONSIBLE person. I make good decisions. I take care of myself and fulfill my obligations because I am a RESPONSIBLE person.

November – **Cooperation/Teamwork**: working positively together to accomplish a goal.

Activity: Brainstorm with your employees ways that your organization uses cooperation/teamwork in the performance of your daily duties. Plan a project with your team that would demonstrate your teamwork (Example-collect for the United Way, Relay for Life, or Shop with a Hero). Thanksgiving—consider and be thankful for all the ways in which you have been blessed.

November Affirmation – I am a COOPERATIVE person. I work positively with others to accomplish a goal. I am committed to the TEAM.

December – **Caring**: being supportive and responding to the needs of others with kindness and compassion.

Activity: Think about the people with whom you work; is there someone who needs to know that someone cares? Holidays are difficult for those who have lost someone to death or divorce or have suffered some kind of calamity (financial setback). (Example-your group/organization could make a donation for a needy family at Christmas.)

December Affirmation – I am a CARING person. I respond to the needs of others with kindness and compassion because I follow the Golden Rule. I am a supportive, CARING person.

January – **Respect**: demonstrating consideration, appreciation, tolerance, and good manners, toward self, others, authority and property.

Activity: Greet people in a warm and friendly manner; greet them by name when possible. Respond to others with respect, concern, and care in your voice and in facial expressions. A smile even carries through the phone line. Watch for those who show respect and send an e-mail to the group highlighting the person (or persons) who shows respect each day. Respect is contagious!

January Affirmation – I am a RESPECTFUL person. I show respect for myself, others, authority, and property. I demonstrate consideration, appreciation, tolerance, and good manners to others because I am a RESPECTFUL person.

February – **Honesty**: being the kind of person whom other people can have confidence in.

Activity: Encourage everyone to:

- Teach honesty
- Model honesty
- Praise and reinforce honest behavior
- Confront dishonesty

February Affirmation – I am a person who is HONEST. I am a dependable, trustworthy individual in whom other people can have confidence. I always tell the whole truth the first time. I am an HONEST person.

March – **Courage**: being brave when faced with a difficult or scary situation and standing up for what you know is right and what you believe in.

Activity: Ask the employees for examples of non-courageous behavior that goes against this trait and for positive examples of those who exemplify this behavior on the job.

March Affirmation – I am a COURAGEOUS person. I am brave when faced with a difficult or scary situation. I stand up for what I know is right and what I believe in because I have COURAGE.

April – **Perseverance**: continuing to do the right thing even though others may not; pressing towards a goal even in difficult times.

Activity: Encourage employees to identify a “character buddy” who has persevered in difficult times and has been a great example of someone choosing to do the right thing when doing the wrong thing would have been easier. Ask the person to share how he/she had the fortitude to “do the right thing” just because it was the right thing to do.

April Affirmation – I am a person who PERSEVERES. I press toward the goal even in difficult times. I continue to do the right thing even though others may not. I am a person with PERSEVERANCE.

May – **Integrity**: being honorable, having principles of moral and ethical strength. Being good when no one is looking.

Activity: Have each employee write the name of another employee who has shown integrity during the month on a piece of paper and drop it in an “integrity jar”. (Each employee can do this multiple times.) At the end of the month, draw out a name(s) to receive a gift card(s) to a local restaurant, Wal-Mart, Target, etc.

May Affirmation – I am a person with INTEGRITY. I have principles of moral and ethical strength. I control myself, take responsibility for myself, cooperate with others, care for others, respect myself and others, am honest and courageous, and persevere toward the goal. I am committed to doing the right thing, “just because it’s the right thing to do”. I am a person with INTEGRITY.

June – **Determination**: holding onto the principles of good character that have been learned and applying them in everyday life.

Activity: Ask the group to identify a co-worker who has been determined to finish a job (or make a difficult decision) and do it the right way even though it took longer and was harder. Give the person a certificate (and a gift card or a little cash) and thank him/her for a job well done.

June Affirmation – I am a person with DETERMINATION. I hold onto the principles of good character that I have learned and apply them in my life every day. I am DETERMINED to be the best that I can be.

Positive Attitudes Worth Sharing

Neosho R-5 School District

Positive Attitudes Worth Sharing (PAWS) Mission Statement: *Having good character means understanding, caring about, and acting upon core ethical values. The Neosho R-5 School District demonstrates commitment to character education by teaching character traits, modeling good character, and promoting high expectations for character and academic achievement.*