

Career Advice

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Assuming a leadership role can open doors



As a young professional, taking on a leadership role in any organization can seem daunting and down-right scary. You may think that your youth or short experience in your career may not qualify you for a leadership role. However, your energy and new outlook can be beneficial to the organization. Picking the right role in the right organization can help further your career and offer so many more benefits.

Q. How do I start getting involved in taking on a leadership role in a professional organization?

A. First, pick an organization or group that you're passionate about or envision as a good fit for your goals and lifestyle. Start showing up for general meetings, socials and other events put on by your chosen organization. Get to know the members and officers. Start asking questions about their roles, why they selected that group and what makes them want to contribute to the organization's growth.

Q. How much time will a leadership role take up?

A. This depends on how much time you are willing to put in. Typically, leaders are expected to show up to key events — general meetings, board meetings, launches and anything else that calls for the representation of the organization. You may also want to set an example for future leaders of the group by being accessible at the events.

Q. What do I do once I gain a leadership role?

A. There are plenty of doors that are open to you once you become a leader of an organization. Together, with your team, you can help create a clear vision for the group. You also can serve to motivate and guide both your fellow leaders and the professional organization's members. Being passionate about your organization also helps in your actions to build positive morale for the group.

Q. What are the benefits?

A. Serving as a key representative of a professional organization can help immensely during networking events, as people may begin to seek you out for business partnerships. Newer group members can turn to you as a mentor. You also can help craft the direction of the organization and further refine its mission and vision — the possibilities are endless.



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