



Learning Leadership from a Pack of Wolves!!!

This picture has been circulating on social media about wolves and their leadership style....

I told my 10 year old daughter Rachael that I was going to do a presentation about wolves at the November LWML Conferences and she said that she wanted to come and help me. She is an expert on animals....we even call her "Animal Lover Rachael" I was very surprised the day before my presentation when I said to her "You know how wolves lead from the back like in this picture, right?!" She emphatically said, "NO! That is not true!" I went on to explain that in this picture the RED square depicted the weak, old and inexperienced wolves that are in the middle of the pack to protect them, that the YELLOW circle was for the strong wolves who protect from the front and that the leader was at the back of the pack making sure that nobody is left behind. She insisted that I was wrong!

Well that was terrible timing since I had to present the next day but I started researching how wolves really lead. There are benefits we can learn by leading from the front or the back. If we lead from the back we can ensure that nobody is left behind while making sure that we are going in the right direction. We can also protect our pack from the back. But how do wolves REALLY lead? It turns out that Rachael was right!!

Wolves do lead from the front. Below are five things that we can learn from wolves:

- 1) It is better to WORK TOGETHER than apart! In a study of how a group of animals can work together to get to food that is tied up in the middle of a package only 1 group of dogs out of 8 could open the package but since wolves work together 5 out of 7 wolves opened the package.
- 2) Communication is KEY! Don't forget to communicate with your team members!!
- 3) RESPECT the system: wolves have a system that makes them successful We also in LWML have a system in place that is over 75 years old. Now this does not mean that we can not change how we do things, it just means that you need to understand and respect the system in place before you try to change anything.
- 4) Your PACK is KEY!!! IF you have a pack then you know what I mean and if you don't have a pack yet then you need a pack! The pack is the KEY to wolves thriving in tough and extreme environments. They would never be able to accomplish the BIG KILL if they were operating alone, outside of their pack. Invite a friend to your next event.
- 5) The team that PLAYS TOGETHER stays together. Rachael told us how the wolves play together and how they are learning while they are having fun. Imagine that,,,learning while we play....maybe we should try that at our next event just like LWML National encouraged us to do!!