

General Knowledge: Obligation & Public Speaking

PO. 2, EO.2c; PO.6, EO.1

Introduction

Introduce the obligation to the Recruits explaining its importance and purpose within the program. Next, explain that all Young Marines are expected to have the obligation memorized, why that is, and that today they will be doing several activities that will help them to remember it. They will also be writing an elevator speech that will allow them to explain the program to others.

Direct Instruction

For today's instruction, you will be using the PowerPoint presentation to display the obligation to the Recruits. Read the obligation aloud in its entirety to start off. Next, you'll be explaining it piece by piece. It is a good idea to bring the Recruits into this part. Show each part of the obligation separately and ask each Recruit what they think it means before explaining it. Be sure to react positively to each answer even if it isn't exactly correct. Focus on the parts of each answer that are right and ask questions that will lead the Recruits to clarify their responses. Be sure to ask for a variety of responses so most of the Recruits participate. Ask open-ended questions to prompt a variety of responses. Make sure to use the Recruits' words when repeating their responses even if you need to add some information to make sure the correct meaning is communicated. Avoid giving them the answer before a few Recruits have the chance to respond.

Once you've gone over each part, have the Young Marines summarize the purpose of the obligation and state once again why it is important that they learn it.

There is a motivational version of the Obligation recorded by the 2017-2018 NYMOY YM/SgtMaj Angel Orozco if you would like to play it for them after your discussion. The second obligation slide is broken down into each piece that YM/SgtMaj Orozco discusses in his video. You would need to click through the slide as the voiceover plays. Using the recording may be a better option if you have younger Recruits who are having trouble understanding the Obligation and putting it into their own words. However, have them try to explain it first before opting for the video to give them a chance and a challenge. The video is an assist for them.

Independent/Group Practice

Activity Options:

1. Have the recruits rewrite the obligation in their own words. They can work in teams or independently to complete this activity. After all the groups or Recruits are finished, have a few share their rewritten obligations and explain why they chose the words they did.
2. Put the Recruits in pairs or small groups and have them practice reciting the obligation to one another. Make sure every Recruit has a copy of the obligation so that they can check their partner's recitation.
3. Give the Recruits index cards or sentence strips with different parts of the obligation on each. You can write one word on each card and keep all the cards for each sentence together, or you can write phrases on longer strips for the Recruits to put in the correct order. Make sure each Recruit or team working has a copy of the Obligation so they can check their answers.

These activities can also all be done in a station or center-style activity. Put the Recruits in teams or groups of four or five. Each group would move through each activity with a different

group at each center/station. They should spend 5-10 minutes at each station to complete the entire activity. Choose a time limit based on the needs and ability levels of your Recruits. Make sure not to rush them, but you also don't want idle time at the centers.

If you choose to complete the activities in centers, be sure to explain the procedure for moving through each station to the Recruits at the start of the activity before you explain what to do at each station. It will also be a good idea to include a page that explains the instructions at each station in case the Recruits forget when they get there. Be sure to set a timer for the time allowed and use it as the cue for Recruits to move to the next station.

Evaluation

For the evaluation, Recruits will be applying what they have learned about the program to writing their own elevator speech. An elevator speech is used to explain the program to others. It's important for Recruits to be able to accurately describe our program, both what it means to them (Obligation) and what our pillars and values are as an organization.

First, explain to them what an elevator speech is and how it connects to the Obligation, that it will help them explain our values to other people now that they are familiar with them. Show them the three examples of the elevator speech and explain the situations where each would be used i.e. when people will ask them about what the Young Marines is and how they could respond in different situations. Then, explain the elevator speech template and how to use it. Display the sample speeches and the template and allow the Recruits eight to ten minutes to write their own elevator speech. Make sure that they know the elevator speech is supposed to be personal, so it is okay for them to include what the program means to them in addition to including information about our pillars.

There is a handout containing this information along with a space to write their own speech if you would like to use this.

Reflection

Once the Recruits finish writing their speeches, invite them to share. It is good practice to write when the Recruits are writing something to have a piece to share as well. Sharing your own work will encourage them to share theirs. The same goes for the Recruit Instructors or other Adult Staff members present at training. This may also give the Recruits ideas for their own speeches. After each Recruit shares, point out the positive aspects of their speech.

An alternative to having the Recruits share aloud, is to have them share their speech with a partner. This takes some of the pressure off of sharing with a large group of people. From there, pairs are more likely to share in a larger setting.

End the lesson by discussing the importance of the Obligation and the Elevator Speech and asking the Recruits why it is important to learn them.

Note: There will be one more assessment of the obligation on Quiz #1 of Recruit Training. Recruits will be given a copy of the obligation and will have to fill in the missing words. It may be a good idea to let them know this is coming so that they continue to study and prepare for this quiz.