

Making Your Mission Matter

Here's one you can take to the bank: When it comes to being in sync with your overall business purpose, there are no breaks ... no rest periods ... no time outs. Each action - by each team member, each day - either supports your organization's mission or it doesn't. And that fact leads to an important question that each of us needs to ponder: Could someone who knows nothing about my organization correctly guess what our mission is merely by observing MY daily actions and behaviors - and those of my team members? Here are a few things you can do to help ensure your answer to that question is a resounding "yes":

Start each day with the mission. Write your organization's (and/or team's) mission on a small, pocket-size index card. Pull out the card and read it at the beginning of each work day to remind yourself of why you're there and what your activities need to be geared toward.

Pursue "in a way that" solutions. When determining how your team will approach tasks and decisions, ask: "How can we do this in a way that is in line with, and supports, our mission?" Make that caveat a regularly used component of your action-planning vocabulary.

When you see something that needs to be done, DO IT - even if it doesn't fall within your direct responsibility. Encourage all of your team members to do the same. Fact is, making sure the mission "happens" is everyone's responsibility!

If you see a member of your team (or a colleague) doing something that's out of sync with the mission, have the courage to speak up. Tactfully challenge him or her, and offer your assistance in finding (and implementing) an alternate approach. Most importantly, make sure your coworkers know that you expect them to do the same thing with you!

Cooperation gets teams pulling together. Staying focused on the organization's mission ensures they pull in the right direction.

~ Eric Harvey

Tip is from [Five Star Teamwork](#) by Steve Ventura & Michelle Correia Templin