

Good Evening everyone. My name is Eliza Bomhardt, and I am currently serving my second year as the LEO Club president. After tonight, you are all officially LEO's of Indian River High School. While some of you may have an idea, a majority of you most likely are not completely sure what it means to be a LEO. LEO's are perspicacious individuals whom are dedicated to achieving excellence. They are students who are willing to go above and beyond to assist whomever may need it in their community. When I am presented with the question "What does being a LEO mean to you?" the words that come to mind are leadership and opportunity.

By definition, leadership is the action of leading a group of people or an organization. With the activities that you will be participating in, you will learn many valuable leadership, time management, and organization skills. Being a LEO means that you will be an active participant in your community as well. LEO's lead others in a positive direction, and are dedicated to achieving common goals. The leadership skills that you will gain as a LEO, will be applicable to the remainder of your lives. A good leader is able to be responsible, trustworthy, and determined, all at the same time. While this may seem like a hefty load at such a young age, becoming a LEO will provide you the chance to learn how to be an effective and efficient leader, which presents me with my next word: opportunity.

Throughout the course of this year, the LEO's will be engaging in multiple activities. Whether it be the dinner for the visually impaired, or the Halloween Parade, you will be given numerous opportunities to make a positive impact on your community. As a part of the LEO Club, you will gain the satisfaction of giving back to the community that gave so much to you. Many people in this community are struggling, whether you realize it or not. Becoming a LEO will give you the

rewarding opportunity to reach out, and become an individual whom makes a difference.

Although you may not realize this quite yet, you have not only just become a LEO, but you have also taken a step towards being a leader, and an active participant in your community. I look forward to a successful and joyous year, filled with opportunities for us all to strive, and for you to discover just what being a LEO means to you.