



## “LESSONS FROM GEESE”

- **Fact 1: As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an “uplift” for the birds that follow.** By flying in a “V” formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone. Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of each other.
- **Fact 2: When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone.** It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it. Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose, we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.
- **Fact 3: When the lead bird tires, it rotates back into the formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.** Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people are interdependent on each other’s skills, capabilities, and unique arrangements of gifts, talents, or resources.
- **Fact 4: The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.** Lesson: We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, the production is much greater. The power of encouragement (to stand by one’s heart or core values and to encourage the heart and core values of others) is the quality of honking we seek.
- **Fact 5: When a goose gets sick, wounded, or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it.** They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Then, they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock. Lesson: If we have as much sense of geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we’re strong.

*Who are you? (Check all that apply. Then \* the one that is most descriptive)*

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ___ A lead goose           | Considering your personality and experiences as a group member, which of the above facts best reflects your current role in the group? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ___ A backup goose         |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ___ A honker               |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Out of formation goose | In what ways could you take on other roles?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Goose in need          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ___ Goose nurse            | Are there roles that the team needs to improve in?   |

**“MAKE IT A GREAT DAY +1”**