



Lessons from the Geese

As each goose flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the bird flying behind. By flying in a formation, the whole flock adds 71% more 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 one another.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the birds immediately in front.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose, we will join in formations with those who are headed where we want to go.

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies at the point position.

Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership – with people, as with geese, interdependent with one another.

The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up in front to keep up their speed.

Lesson: We need to make sure our honking from behind is encouraging – not something less helpful.

When a goose gets sick or wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of the formation and follow their fellow member down to help and to provide protection. They stay with their flock mate until s/he either is able to fly again or dies. They then launch out on their own, with another formation, or to catch up with their own flock.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stand by one another.

