

TEN LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM THE SHACKLETON EXPEDITION

- 1** Vision: Never lose sight of the ultimate goal and focus energy on short-term objectives.
- 2** Set a personal example with visible, memorable symbols and behaviors.
- 3** Instill optimism and confidence, but stay grounded in reality.
- 4** Take care of yourself: maintain your stamina and let go of guilt.
- 5** Reinforce the team message constantly:
“We are one. – We live or die together.”
- 6** Minimize status differences and insist on courtesy and mutual respect.
- 7** Master conflict – deal with anger in small doses, engage dissidents, and avoid needless power struggles.
- 8** Find something to celebrate and something to laugh about.
- 9** Be willing to take the big risk.
- 10** Never give up – there’s always another move.



Leading At The Edge

Good books about leadership and the leadership aspects of management are highly uncommon. Great books in that genre are a great rarity. *Leading At the Edge: Leadership Lessons from the Extraordinary Saga of Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition*, is a great book.

In December of 1914, lead by Sir Ernest Shackleton, the British Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition struck out on its quest to complete the first overland crossing of Antarctica. Forty-five days into their journey, their ship, The Endurance, was trapped in an ice flow 60 miles from continental Antarctica. They failed to complete the Trans-Antarctic crossing, but after 634 days, which included two winters in Antarctica, where temperatures can drop to below minus100° Fahrenheit, the entire expedition reached safety. Under less perilous circumstances, many other expeditions, previous and subsequent, crumbled to the great misfortune of the participants. What made the Shackleton Expedition different?

The first ten chapters of the book correspond to the ten lessons that the author gleaned from studying the miraculous success of the Shackleton expedition's 634 day fight for survival.

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