

10 Principles of Work On Purpose by Echoing Green

Image: Alexia Vernon's Moxie Camp 2012 by Carrie Leonard

Echoing Green has performed hundreds of in-depth interviews with its social entrepreneurship Fellows over 25 years, uncovering the common experiences that led them to their world-changing careers. From their stories, they pulled forth these ten principles for identifying your purpose and putting it into action.

RIGHT FOR YOU

Heart + Head = Hustle

Find ways to work from both your heart and your head, collapsing the divisions between these two aspects of yourself in your work as often as possible. It is the only way to achieve what we call hustle.

Know What You've Got - Know What You Need

Uncover your unique contribution(s) to the world. In the meantime, either develop the skills, strengths, contacts, experiences, insights, or education you still need, or prop yourself up by surrounding yourself with people whose gifts complement your own.

Mine Your Past

Reflect on your history in order to understand what motivates you, both positively and negatively. This reflection will help you create a career that is connected to your core.

GOOD FOR THE WORLD

_____ is What Matters

Fill in the blank. Figure out what social problem(s) matters to you, and prioritize addressing them. (After all, saying "yes" to what really matters to you almost always means saying "no" to other things.)

Act on Moments of Obligation

Identify and seize the moments in which you have been, and continue to be, moved to take responsibility for helping solve one of the world's biggest problems. Then turn that feeling into concrete action.

Take Perspective...Someone Else's

Cultivate a deep curiosity about the world and actively seek to understand other populations, perspectives, models, and disciplines. Interdisciplinarianism is critical to innovative thinking, as it allows you to see connections and patterns where those who stay within a silo cannot; and understanding perspectives of those affected by social

problems is essential for high-impact, culturally competent work.

BE BOLD

Bold Immersion

Become an expert in the work you are most drawn to. Get to know all of the relevant people, organizations, research, books, and articles; surround yourself those who are as excited to understand the field as you are; study; volunteer; immerse yourself!

Fear Means Go

Distinguish between healthy fears and the kind of barrier fears that stem from your insecurities. Your barrier fears are signals that you need to GO...not away from that which scares you, but toward it.

Gall to Think Big

Give yourself permission to try out smart, untested tactics, models, and ideas, even if you aren't 100% certain you'll succeed. After all, failure is one of life's greatest learning tools and can be proof that you are thinking big. (In fact, if you haven't failed in a while, ask yourself if you need to take on bolder challenges!)

Think Like an Entrepreneur

Move through your life and your career with an entrepreneurial spirit, and apply the focus, energy, and positivity to founding your social impact career that you would apply to founding a new business or organization