Who can Lead?

1. Anyone who loves music and people and who possesses a sense of pitch, sense of rhythm, sense of fitness, contagious enthusiasm, feeling for moods, willingness to share.
2. Someone who believes that singing can be
   —a force for drawing people together,
   —a method for teaching music appreciation,
   —a relief from tensions,
   —a learning experience,
   —a source of inspiration.
3. Someone who does not need to
   —be an expert musician,
   —pump water or thrash his arms,
   —warble like a lyric soprano.

Make Singing Fun

1. Use a variety of songs.
2. Emphasize the harmony or rhythm which makes any song have appeal.
3. Include the entire audience (exclude no one).
4. Draw attention to the song, not the song leader.
5. Hum or whistle songs occasionally.
6. Have members clap rhythm when suitable.
7. Draw out leadership from group.
8. Include the entire audience (exclude no one).
9. Teach new songs — sing through first; if song is long, learn a line at a time.
10. Let your hands speak for you.

Timely Tips

1. Study your group.
2. Prepare songs beforehand.
3. Plan for an accompanist (especially if your voice is not strong).
4. Have a file of songs available.
5. Plan for the time allowed.
6. Use definite signal for starting, stopping.
7. Start where you are with something all know.
8. Have group sit up, sing out, and follow your leadership.
9. Stand where everyone sees you — exaggerate your facial expressions.
10. Get as close to everyone as possible.
12. Encourage singing with feeling rather than loudness.
13. Praise rather than scold — keep a working contact.
14. Have a "spare" ready.
15. Laugh off your mistakes, work for enthusiasm.
16. Encourage new songs — give background stories when possible.
17. Avoid over-use of novelty songs, or parodies which might be in bad taste.
18. Ask for requests (hear those that are best).
19. Have high standards, but understandable ones.
20. Spot exceptional voices; use them.
21. Divide group several ways for rounds.
22. Have "surprise songs" occasionally.
23. Watch for new ideas.
24. Get the feeling of your group, talk only as necessary to do a good job.
25. Practice a round with the entire group first — be sure to indicate number of times to be sung through.

Songs To Use

Variety — This depends on the real objectives of your session. Here are a few samples of several kinds.

Openers: — "Hello, Hello", "Vive L’Amour"
Start with a song everyone knows. Finish with one of your best. Those in between can be newer ones which will give needed variety.

**Hand Motions**
1. Feel the rhythm beat—don’t worry about exact pattern.
2. For new or difficult songs, use hands at level of musical notes.
4. Louder hand motions—fists, palms up.
5. P—soft; F—loud; M—moderately; ✓—crescendo; ✓—diminish; ✓—hold.
7. Signals for stopping: Cut off, dial off, tie a bow, drop hands.
8. Clapping and action songs actually help others to lead.
9. Simple time patterns often used:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>2/4 time</th>
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<td>1 \rightarrow 2</td>
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<th>4/4 time</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 1</td>
<td>2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 5 \rightarrow 6 \rightarrow 3</td>
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Transitions

Appropriate songs, well chosen, can move a group from quiet-time to hilarity or vice versa. Final song of three or four used for this purpose should be in keeping with the mood of the coming event.

Situations

Sometimes other factors affect your choice of what to use and test your skills as a leader. Can you handle these?

1. Someone singing off-key, deliberately or otherwise.
2. Someone who knows a different version and won’t sing yours.
3. Talkers in rear of group.
5. Disturbing noises, traffic, trains, etc.

Some Good Sources

Sing Along — 96 pages, 30c, MSU, State 4-H — Youth Office East Lansing, Mich. 48823
Sing — 96 pages, 50c, American Camping Assoc., Martinsville, Ind. 46151
Twice 55 Series — Sunny-Birchard Pub. Co., 1834 Ridge Ave., Evanston, Ill. 60204
Tent and Trail Songs — 50 pages, 30c, Cooperative Recreation Service, Delaware, Ohio 43015
National 4-H Song Book — 96 pages, 40c, National 4-H Supply Service, 59 East Van Buren St., Chicago, Ill. 60605