

The Leader Halo

1. What are some resources you can use to learn more about the people you are heading outdoors with?
2. Think about when you have been in a classroom or instructional setting as a learner and you thought highly of someone's abilities. Was this a classmate, an instructor or a leader? What did they do to gain your confidence or admiration?
3. Can you think of someone you thought highly of at first but then were "let down" or learned that they were not what you thought? Had you built them up in your head? Did they present themselves as an expert? Consider the assumptions and mental shortcuts/biases that may have resulted in this inaccurate perception.
4. Where is the line between looking up to someone for their skills/abilities and seeing them as infallible? How can we appreciate and respect those with more experience without placing the Leader Halo on them?

Badge Halos

1. When you join a trip or outing, do you ask who the leader is? Are you given a background or resume on their experience? What can you do to learn more about them?
2. Do you want to know a leaders' motivations for choosing a trip? What can you do to find out why a particular route or destination was chosen? Should leaders disclose this information up front every time, or only when it's a new trip or route for them?
3. What motivates you to choose a destination? Are you working your way to your own merit badge or reward? If you are, why have you chosen this one? How can you keep from becoming complacent and falling victim to a badge halo?

Cairn Halos

1. When you go outside, do you have more than one way to navigate? What is your backup plan if one does not work?
2. If you are in a wilderness area, how can you know what kind of trail you are on? How can you know where it leads?
3. Next time you go outside, notice what you are paying attention to. Are you looking for landmarks? Do you stop and look behind you to see what it will look like on the way down?

Backpack & Helmet Halos

1. When have you made a judgment about someone's skills or abilities based on the gear they had? Do you believe this was an accurate assessment? Why?
2. Are there assumptions you make based on the appearance of gear? Ask yourself: do you assume a level of experience or expertise based on how old or new someone's gear looks?
3. Do you know how to use your gear? Have you practiced using all of it? What about your partner or group members?
4. List the safety equipment and gear that you use in your preferred sport or outdoor activity. Have you given any of these pieces a halo? Are you aware of the ratings, purpose, and limitations that come with your safety gear? If not, how can you find out?

The Halo in the Mirror

1. What is the difference between confidence and over-confidence?
2. Can you recall a time when you have had a mirror halo or seen one in someone else? How did you identify it?
3. What is one area where you have become complacent? Starting right now, what can you do differently?
4. How can you check yourself for a mirror halo? Who do you trust to tell you if they see one? How will you respond to feedback?

Additional Halo Questions

Use this space to write down other halo questions or prompts.