



Image courtesy of [Pexels](#)

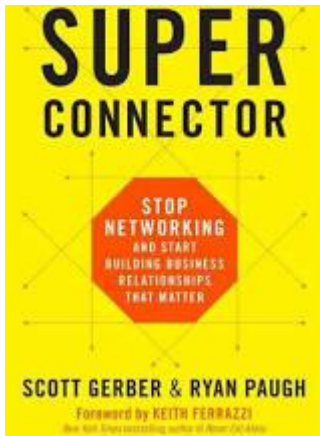
Inspiring Summer Reads to Enhance Your Leadership Skills

Leadership is crucial in a variety of positions. Government officials, business owners, and coaches are among the first that come to mind, but leaders are also those who step up to mentor others, who lead clubs and who organize fundraisers for nonprofits. Leaders drive morale, collaboration, progress and culture. In short, they shape their group, and ultimately shape the culture that group impacts.

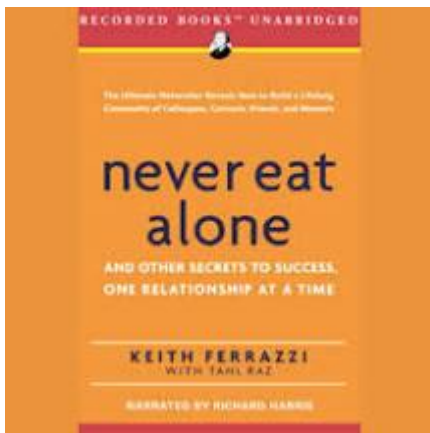
For those who step up into leadership roles in their community, we offer these inspiring reads for their summertime perusal:

Forging Connections

Encouraging connection and collaboration can be a challenge, but to be an effective leader, others need to buy into your ideas. These books will help you fine-tune your networking and [relationship-building](#).



1. ***Superconnector*** by Scott Gerber and Ryan Paugh
Networking one-on-one can be a time drain and ineffective. For lessons on how to become a “superconnector” who reaches across communities, read Gerber and Paugh’s book.



2. ***Never Eat Alone*** by Keith Ferrazzi and Tahl Raz
Genuinely connecting with people in an increasingly digitized world can be tough. This book provides practical advice for overcoming electronic boundaries to help you enhance your network.

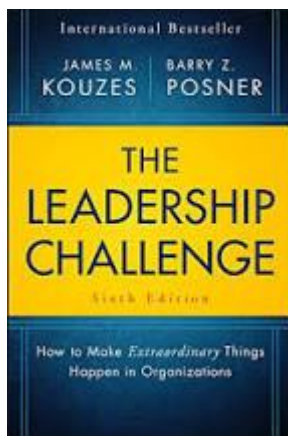


3. ***Networking Is Not Working*** by Derek Coburn

Tired of attending events that are meant to further your connections, only to find you've made no progress? Coburn's book recommends working on a smaller scale for bigger results.

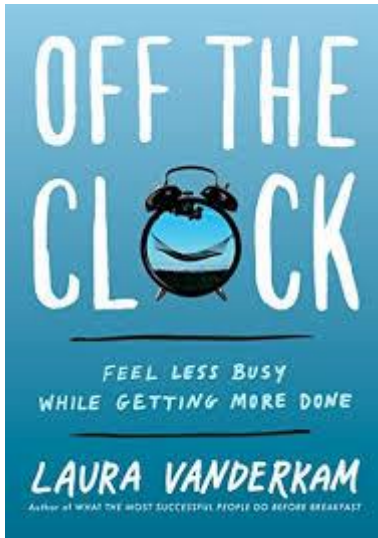
Improving Leadership Abilities

There is no such thing as a perfect leader, and with that in mind, [consider these titles](#) to help you bring out your best:



1. ***The Leadership Challenge: How to Make Extraordinary Things Happen in Organizations*** by James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner

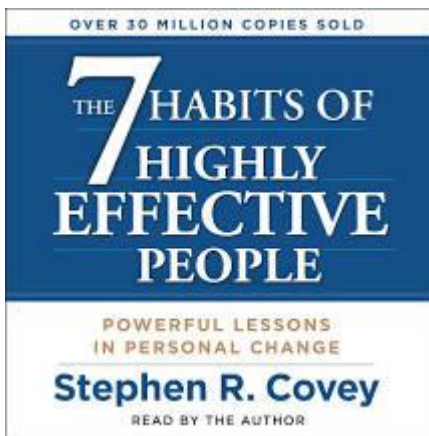
Not everyone is a natural born leader; in fact, these authors make a case for the idea that nobody is really *born* to lead. Instead, Kouzes and Posner suggest that our circumstances and how we choose to respond to them contribute to whether or not we lead well.



2. ***Off the Clock: Feel Less Busy While Getting More Done***

by Laura Vanderkam

Do you need more time to dedicate to your priorities? This book gives you practical advice for cutting out less important activities so you can focus on what counts.



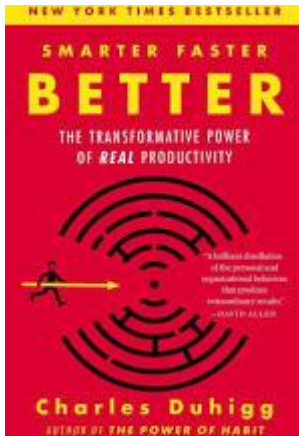
3. ***The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People: Powerful***

Lessons in Personal Change by Stephen R. Covey

Covey puts forth seven powerful concepts that will shape how effective your leadership is. Noting that strength of character is at the core of good leadership, every leader should read this one at least once.

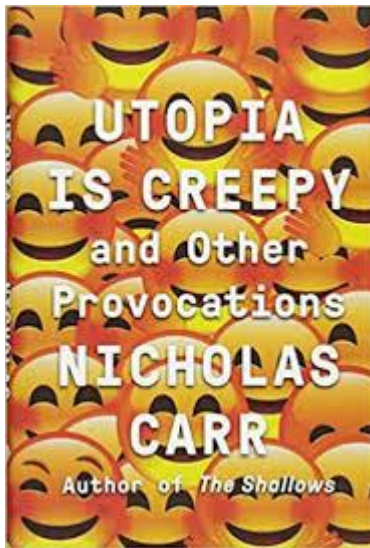
Sparking Meaningful Change

Being able to think outside of the box is a must for success. Whether you're looking for [ways to innovate](#) so you can take your mom and pop shop to the next level or trying to spark a cultural revolution, these books can help.



1. ***Smarter Faster Better: The Secrets of Being Productive in Life and Business*** by Charles Duhigg

Do you wish you could think on your feet better? If so, Inc. says to dive into Duhigg's book, as it's all about thinking better and more efficiently.



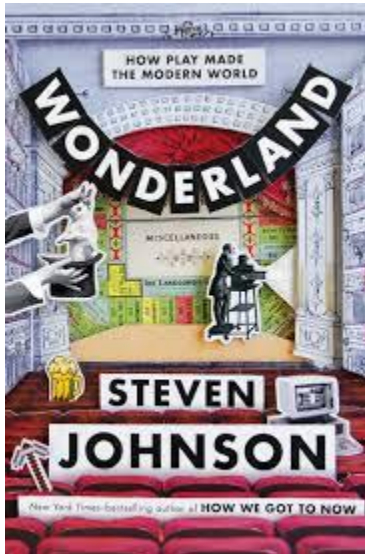
2. ***Utopia Is Creepy: And Other Provocations*** by Nicholas Carr

We're increasingly dependent on technology, yet Carr says that can't—and won't—ultimately be our safety net. Instead, he explains how it's affecting our lives in the personal and professional realms, and why we need to continue to cultivate our creativity.



3. ***You Got This!: Unleash Your Awesomeness, Find Your Path, and Change Your World*** by Maya S. Penn

This young author provides lessons on creativity that will help leaders of all ages and stages.



4. ***Wonderland: How Play Made the Modern World*** by Steven Johnson

We carry electronic gadgets in our pockets, hang them on our walls and mount them to our dashboards—and it's not all about business. In the world of our fun and entertainment, tech plays a key role, and the author digs into what particular innovations led the way and how that affected our world beyond our pleasures and pastimes.

Stop by your local [library](#) so you can take your leadership to the next level this summer. Whether you're part of a small group or a large organization, the ripple effect of your good leadership will matter.