

# SUCCESSFUL *Culture*

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## Fifteen Pearls of Wisdom for Young Entrepreneurs

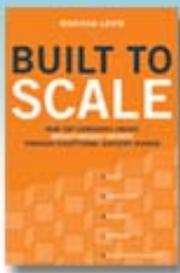
Today's young leaders are fortunate to have so many role models in the business community... people who have overcome a lot of obstacles to build successful organizations. I've compiled 15 insights to consider as you embark on your own entrepreneurial journey. One day, you too will be in the position of mentorship, and will be able to share these with those that look to you for guidance and inspiration. Congratulations for finding the strength and determination to pursue your dreams!

### *Own Your Own Dreams, Your Future, and Your Happiness.*

Your dreams belong to you. No one can take them away from you. Fulfilling your dreams will be one of your life's greatest challenges, but it will also be the most rewarding. Our dreams are our connection to the life we want. While it's nice that others believe in your dreams, what matters most is that you believe in your dreams. Your happiness and future are too important to put into someone else's hands. No one will cherish your happiness more than you. Take ownership and responsibility for it. You are the most important part of your dreams and your happiness.

### *Everything You Do Matters.*

How do you want people to think of you? Do you want them to think you are kind, compassionate, and trustworthy? Your actions will determine what people think of



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you. You are in control of how people perceive you. You decide what opinion people have of you. You own your behaviors. Your actions matter.

### Use Social Media Carefully. Everyone is Watching.

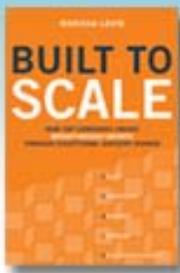
Social media is an important part of our lives these days. You are part of the digital native generation, which means that every friendship you make will have some type of online connection. Make good choices about social media. Select your friends, your pictures, your videos, and your words carefully. Once you put it out there, you can't take it back. And people will judge you based on your social media activity and online identity. So use judgment and think before you post.

### Turn to the Positive People in Your Life.

You are blessed with positive, supportive people in your life. At times, it can feel as if you have no one. But through your family, your church, and your school, you have people to help. There are many people in your life that can help you and will support you. Turn to them. Asking for help is one of the most important things anyone can do to have a successful life.

### Be Selective About Who Surrounds You.

Research has proven that we are the average of the ten people that are closest to us. What do you want your future to look like? What is your value system? What is important to you, professionally, spiritually, morally, and intellectually? The people that surround you should be people that support your goals, your dreams, your



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values, your future. They should be people that can help you grow into the best version of you. It should be very hard to get into your inner circle.

### *It's All About the Work Ethic, and That Starts Now.*

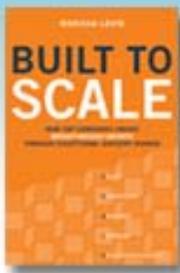
Habits start early. You can decide if you will have good work habits, or bad work habits. Deciding while you are in school will set the way for your work habits later. As a business owner, I rely on employees with good work habits. Employees with bad work habits and a bad work ethic get fired fast. If I can't trust them, they can't work for me. Create good habits early so you can be successful later.

### *Respect Money. You Will Need a Good Credit Score To Launch Your Life.*

One of the most important tools you will need as you build your life is a good credit score. A credit score tells banks how well you manage money. Do you have trouble paying credit cards? Do you have a lot of debt? Once you damage your credit score, it's really hard to get it back. A low credit score will get in the way of your dreams. You may not be able to buy a house, buy a car, or rent an apartment. You may not be able to get a loan, or get approved for a credit card to go to college or open your business. A good credit score shows you are responsible and trustworthy. Respect money.

### *Be A Good Friend.*

Do you want to have good friends? Do you want friends in your life that have your back when you need them? Then be a good friend. Treat your friends the way you want to be treated, and you will always have a solid circle of friends.



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## Don't Be In Such a Rush To Grow Up.

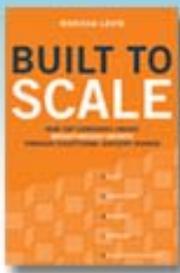
You are entering into the time in your life when the greatest self-discovery takes place. You are learning about yourself every day, and figuring out the answers as you go along (although it seems we never have all of the answers). There will be situations that seem like you can't get through them. But you can! One day, you will be able to look back at this time in your life and realize that the problems you have today were just a part of growing up. Every challenge passes. Enjoy this time in your life!

## Be grateful.

Wherever we are in our life, there are always people that have it worse than we do. It is very easy to think we have it worse than most people. But this type of thinking is usually not correct and it is never good for us. All of us have many blessings in our life. Whatever happens in our life, and wherever we go, our blessings travel with us. Focusing on the blessings we have – the people that love us, the opportunities we have, the things we have learned – helps us handle the difficulties. Be grateful.

## Embrace Learning and Mentorship.

One of the most amazing gifts that life gives us is the never-ending opportunity to learn. But we have to want it, to be open to it, and to embrace it. The moment we close ourselves off to learning is the moment we stop growing. There are people all around us that want to teach us and mentor us. Find them and ask them for help. Never lose the desire or the capacity to grow and to learn.



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## Ignore the Naysayers.

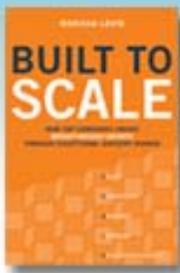
Successful people can always count on others to try and drag them down. Sometimes, people try to drag successful people down because of jealousy. Sometimes it is because they view the world from a negative perspective. Sometimes, it is because they were never encouraged by others to chase a dream. And sometimes, it is for no reason at all. Negative thinkers are as powerful or as powerless as we allow them to be in our lives. Their degree of influence over you is up to you.

## Be a Part of Something Bigger Than Yourself... Give Back.

We can all do our part to make the world a little better. We can help our communities be stronger, we can help sick people, we can mentor people younger than us, we can volunteer our time or our talents. Our lives can't be just about us. Our purposes must be bigger than just us. We must be connected to the world in many ways. There is nothing more rewarding than knowing you have made a difference in someone else's life...so give back.

## Journal your Journey.

You are making history. Capture all of it, starting today. This is your life story... there will never be another one like it. We are never too young to start building our legacy.



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## It Only Gets Better From Here!!

Your potential is unlimited! You haven't even begun to scratch the surface of all that you will be, all that you will know, and all that you will accomplish. Your life is a blank canvas... an unwritten page. Your best life is surely ahead of you!

I am always available to help our young entrepreneurs. If you need some words of wisdom, or just a message of inspiration, please reach out to me. I look forward to watching you make your mark in this world.

Good luck!

*Marissa*

Marissa Levin

CEO, Successful Culture