



## **SI SE PUEDE** ©

(Value #4: Determination)



### **Description:**

Who are your heroes? Who are the people you admire for accomplishing great things?

Maybe it's someone famous, like a swimmer with an Olympic gold medal. Or maybe an astronaut who walks in space, fixing space shuttles.

Or maybe your hero isn't famous, but someone you see every day. It could be your grandpa, who came from another country and did hard labor every day so that his family (including you!) would have a better life. Maybe it's your best friend's mom, who went to law school at night while raising a family, and now works as an attorney, helping poor people.

Did these people reach their goals just by having good luck? No! They **made** it happen by **determination**. That means they decided to achieve their goals, no matter what, by working at them every day, a little at a time. No matter how many obstacles got in their way, they believed their dream was possible.

In Spanish, the phrase for that is "**Si se puede.**" That means "It **can** be done" – and Cesar made this one of the Union's slogans.

### **Example from Cesar's Life:**

People used to say you could never organize farmworkers into a union. They moved around too much. And because many of them were Mexican citizens, they worried that their bosses would send them back to Mexico if they asked for better working conditions.



But Cesar said, “Si se puede.” The Union tried new and creative ways of building strength (remember the **strike** and **boycott?**) and achieved success.

### Examples from Your Life:

What’s your dream for your own life? Being a pro athlete? A doctor? An author of children’s books? Owning a restaurant? No matter how challenging the goal, you can achieve it with a “si se puede” attitude – and lots of hard work.

**Activities:** (These will give you practice in being determined and making things happen.)

- What’s your dearest wish? To play the guitar? Dance ballet? Make the school baseball team? Make a list of the things you need to do to achieve that goal. Then do one thing every couple of days to help you get there.
- Read a book about someone who overcame hard times to achieve success. Ask your teacher or librarian for suggestions.
- The next time you have a big school project to do, don’t get worried or upset. Break it down into small parts, and do a little at a time – knowing you will be successful.
- When there’s a fund-raising event at school for a good cause, join in. When individual people put their energy together, they can move mountains. Each person only has to do a little bit.
- It’s important to learn **patience** in achieving goals. The next time the going gets tough, and you start getting frustrated and upset, try this: Slow down and take 10 deep breaths. That will calm you down, and then you can get back to work.



# The Ten Values of Cesar Chavez

1. **Teach Someone** (Service to Others)
2. **Sacrifice for Others** (Sacrifice)
3. **Help Someone** (Help the Most Needy)
4. **Si Se Puede** (Determination)
5. **No Violence** (Nonviolence)
6. **We're All Different** (Accepting of All People)
7. **Respect Others** (Respect for Life)
8. **Be Proud** (Celebrating Community)
9. **Knowledge Is Power** (Knowledge)
10. **Be Creative** (Innovation)



## **Cesar Chavez Service Clubs**

Building Youth Leadership through Service

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### **SI SE PUEDE PLEDGE**

“I promise myself that I will learn to overcome hard times by practicing patience, optimism, determination, creativity, and commitment to my beliefs. Those are positive traits that will help me become a “se puede” kind of person. I’ll remind myself often that I can make change happen—by myself or in union with others.”

**Sign here after saying pledge: X. \_\_\_\_\_**