

# The Goose Story

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This fall when you see geese heading south for the winter in a “V” formation, you might be interested to know what science has discovered about why they fly that way.

Scientists have learned that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately behind it. By flapping in a “V” formation, the whole flock adds at least 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. ***People who share common direction and a sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.***

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front. ***If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed in the same direction as we are.***

When the lead goose gets tired, he rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point. ***It pays to take turns doing the hard jobs.***

The geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. ***An encouraging word goes a long way.***

Finally, when a goose gets sick or is wounded by gun shot and falls out, two geese fall out of formation and follow him down to help and protect him. They stay with him until he is either able to fly or until he is dead. Then they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with the group. ***If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other.***

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