

## Becoming Your Own Boss – The Entrepreneur in You!

This is a repeat article from years past. It's a topic that I haven't addressed lately. For those of you who might be at the decision crossroads and are contemplating being the employer and not the employee.

To many this is a daunting endeavor. There is really no safety cushion when one ventures out on their own to develop and deploy their own ideas into a successful enterprise. However, some thrive on the challenge.

To be clear, let's first define the term. Here is Wikipedia's definition

(<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entrepreneurship>) "Rather than working as an employee, an entrepreneur runs a small business and assumes all the risk and reward of given business venture, idea or good or service offered for sale. The key words here are risk and reward – but we'll get to those later.

First, let's look at the characteristics of an entrepreneur. These come from a posting on Monster.com ([www.monster.com/career-advice/article/entrepreneurship-traits](http://www.monster.com/career-advice/article/entrepreneurship-traits)).

- Motivation. Entrepreneurs are enthusiastic, optimistic and future-oriented...
- Creativity and Persuasiveness...
- Versatility...
- Superb Business Skills...
- Risk Tolerance...
- Drive...
- Vision...
- Flexibility and Open-Mindedness.

It's amazing how, once the conversation is initiated, how many military folks have these characteristics. It takes a conversation such as this to realize that these may be latent, however they exist. As with many, these words needed a translation from military to civilian.

So, what are the skills for a successful entrepreneur. Again, an internet search revealed the following from Forbes ([www.forbes.co/sites/aileron/.../the-top-skills-every-entrepreneur-needs/](http://www.forbes.co/sites/aileron/.../the-top-skills-every-entrepreneur-needs/)).

- Resiliency...
- Focus...
- Invest for the long term...
- Find and manage people...
- Sell...
- Learn...
- Self-reflection...
- Self-reliance: While there is a lot of help for the entrepreneur, in the end, they need to be resourceful enough to depend upon themselves.

Whether your idea is tech related or in real estate or another endeavor, there are resources in San Antonio to help you get organized. SA Launch is a City of San Antonio resource for entrepreneurs that's located at the Central Library. For the techie, there is Geekdom. For funding and other support for all sorts of ideas, check out the LiftFund. The University of Texas at San Antonio's Small Business Development Center provides a wealth of services and resources. And – This is the short list. I'm sure that other locations have similar resources as well.

Where your path leads is up to you. There is a wealth of opportunities. Look for your passion. Introspect for the strengths of your skills. Find the resources to develop those latent or undeveloped skills. Best of luck. And – most of all – HAVE FUN!

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