The Dog Poop Initiative
A True Story

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The #1 Book for Dealing with the #2 Problem In your Organization, Team or Family.
A man walking his dog.
A squirrel climbing a tree.
Something’s about to happen
Let’s look and see...
The man whistles with an innocent look on his face. The dog sniffs around finding just the right place.
The man looks away. The squirrel covers his eyes. While the dog delivers a smelly surprise!
The two walk away leaving a big pile of poo.
The squirrel plugs his nose, not sure what to do.
The stinky pile that they leave behind
Will soon be on everyone’s mind.
But will anyone, in any group...
Take the initiative to clean up this poop?

Let’s watch and see...
Soon the soccer kids arrive to play. It’s the first two teams to play that day. “Gross, it’s DOG POOP!” they point and shout. Everyone seems willing to point it out.
The game begins and they play for awhile, with luck and great effort, they avoid the pile.
As the next two teams arrive later that day,
The Pointers point and warn, where not to play.
The Coach and Ref discuss what to do
...to keep the kids out of the poo.
Coach says, “It won’t be easy, kids, I know… But we’ll need to watch out where we go. From that poopy pile we must stay away. But let’s have fun, come on, let’s play!”
There was more than one close call. Sometimes a shoe, sometimes the ball.

Parents would yell or Coach would shout....
“Kick the ball.” “Score the Goal.” “Have fun,” and “WATCH OUT!”
So far all we’ve seen are lots of pointers and a pooper,

But what about initiative? Where are the leaders and the scoopers?
A coach and a player. A father and a son.
They may change the score before the day is done.
The Pointers see the problem, and as all pointers do... They point, then blame, and whine a bit... and give some coaching too. For they see themselves as experts now, on how to avoid the poo.
Without so much as the blink of an eye,
This coaching dad passed the pointers by.

Then finding something
To use as a scoop,
He went over and
Cleaned up the poop.

His son watched closely...
Life is full of people who are pointers... and they’re only scoring ZEROS. The players who take the initiative are the winners and the HEROES!
The scoopers take initiative and are the ones who lead the way. They make the field a better place for all the rest to play.
They don't waste time pointing, complaining, or worrying who's to blame. They simply do what must be done, and then get on with the game.
The next day at school...

It doesn’t matter where it came from or who put it there. What matters is the leader we become, when we decide to care
When we remember that initiative is just what leaders do.
When we remember their example...
...then we can do it too!
The example of our initiative may help others more clearly see the kind of person and even hero that they too can choose to be.
We are scoopers!