The Ten Habits of Highly Effective Stress Managers

1. They know how to relax.

You need to know how to let go of tension, and be able to relax your body and quiet your mind.

2. They eat right and exercise often.

Be nutritious and engage in some form of physical activity regularly.

3. They get enough sleep.

Go to sleep at an hour that ensures that you will get enough rest.

4. They don't worry about the unimportant stuff.

Know the difference between what is truly important and what is not. Put things into perspective.

5. They don't get angry often.

Avoid losing your temper. If you do become angry, try to remain in control of your anger so that it does not become destructive.

6. They are organized.

Feel a sense of control over your environment. A cluttered and disorganized life leads to a stressed life.

7. They manage their time efficiently.

Know how to use time well. Be in control of your schedule. Learn to say "no."

8. They have and make use of a strong social support system.

Spend time with your family, friends and acquaintances. Have people in your life who listen to you and care for you.

9. They live according to their values.

Know what is important and what is not. Make sure your goals are significant and worthwhile.

10. They have a good sense of humor.

Laugh at life's hassles and annoyances. Be able to laugh at yourself, and don't take yourself to seriously.

Source: Elkin, A. (1999). Stress management for dummies. New York: Wiley Publishing.