

Youth Mentor Training

Cross-Age Mentoring in Schools:

- ✓ One of the most powerful ways to reach children to help them achieve success.
- ✓ Providing assistance, modeling and positive interactions can result in school and social success.
- ✓ An effective strategy for addressing behaviors that may result in problems.

Mentoring is helpful in:

- ✓ Improving a child's self-esteem so they are better prepared to excel in school and reject negative behaviors such as substance abuse and violence.
- ✓ Preventing discouraged learners.
- ✓ Helping children improve their academic skills.
- ✓ Increasing children's ability to understand and use the Six Pillars of Character in their daily lives.

Mentor Training Will:

- ✓ Help high school mentors and children establish positive personal relationships.
- ✓ Help children develop life skills while reinforcing the mentor's life skills.
- ✓ Create awareness in service to individuals, school and community.
- ✓ Help children learn to function more successfully in school and society while reinforcing that lesson with the high school mentor.

Mentor Responsibilities:

- ✓ Meet with student for one hour per week throughout the school year.
- ✓ Check with teacher for suggested activities and study buddy learning.
- ✓ Be positive role model to student.
- ✓ Report any neglect or child abuse to school counselor or principal.
- ✓ Abide by policies and guidelines of the program.
- ✓ Attend orientation and keep weekly log of mentoring time.

School representative duties to make training happen:

- ✓ Arrange for a one-day Mentoring Training for high school students
- ✓ Choose a date and secure a trainer through NEPRC.
- ✓ Locate training site like church or community room with carpeted training space and a kitchen area or a hotel conference room. Because the school is responsible for the cost of the training site, a free community room may be preferred. A site away from the school building is ideal.
- ✓ Arrange for snacks, refreshments and lunch for the participants.

NE Prevention Resource Center Provides:

- ✓ One to two qualified trainers to lead the one-day training depending on number of students to be trained.
- ✓ Materials for the training.
- ✓ Follow-up refresher within six months after the training if desired by the school at no charge.
- ✓ One day training from 9:00 to 3:00 (although times are negotiable).
- ✓ Students should dress comfortably and be available for the entire day of the training with their advisors.

Character and Ethics in Mentoring Training:

Teaching and modeling character and ethics are important components of a mentoring program. Awareness of the Pillars of Character allows mentors to use examples in guidance and role modeling for children. Using the Pillars of Character assists in delivering an important message to children and mentors alike. An understanding of the Pillars of Character allows for teachable moments while mentors work with the children at school.

If you would like more information on mentoring training, please contact:

Dodi Haug at (605) 884-3516 or dodih@humanserviceagency.org