PARENTS GUIDELINES AND GROUND RULES

The following are some basic guidelines and ground rules for helping to make the mentoring relationship a success. They are followed by common questions parents may have about both their role and that of the mentor. Neither are intended to replace or supersede the rules developed by your mentoring program. If you have questions at any time, please contact the Project Director.

Guidelines and Ground Rules

● Please do not ask your child’s mentor to provide transportation, buy presents, be the disciplinarian, or babysit for your family. The mentor’s role is to be a companion to the mentee.

● Please don’t discuss your child with the mentor in the presence of your child. If you think there is something the mentor should know, call him when your child is away.

● Try to let the mentor know, once in a while, that his efforts are appreciated, and please help your child be considerate of the mentor (e.g., remembering his birthday, making occasional phone calls).

● Remember, the relationship that exists is between your child and the mentor. Please don’t ask that you or siblings be included on outings, and try to avoid excessive quizzing about their visits, so that your child can enjoy having his special friend. However, if you feel uncomfortable with any aspect of the match, or if something about the relationship concerns you (i.e., your child is acting secretive or unusual concerning the match), contact the Project Director immediately.

● Please don’t deprive your child of the weekly visit with his mentor as a means of discipline.

● REDEEM will advise the parent of where and the time to drop off and to pick up their child.

● Activities are free.

● Scheduling times will be once a week at a predetermined time and location to be determined later. Set date(s), time of drop-off and pick-up, and central location will be discussed.

● The mentoring relationship needs time to develop — at least three months — so don’t judge it too quickly; give it time.
- Notify the organization when you have a change of phone number or address.

- Please keep in mind that all information is confidential and should be shared only with your Project Director.

- The success or failure of a match depends on the cooperation of all the individuals concerned. It is important to discuss your child’s match with the Project Director periodically to prevent problems and to keep the Project Director updated. We want your child to have fun and to grow positively from the match.

**Questions and Answers**

**What should I do if my child cannot attend a meeting with the mentor?**
To encourage responsibility in your child, have him call the mentor when a meeting must be rescheduled. If your child is very ill, you may want to call yourself. Be sure you have the phone numbers to reach the mentor at home and work.

**What if our family plans conflict with a meeting?**
Time with the mentor is not intended to displace time with the family. You should continue your normal family plans, including get-togethers, special trips, and vacations. As much as possible, the mentor and your child should plan their time together around your normal schedule. It may be helpful to let the mentor and your child know about planned family events. The mentor and your child should let you know when they are planning special activities. Good advance communication will help to avoid conflicts.

**Can I or other family members go with my child and the mentor?**
A mentoring relationship is special, in part, because it is a one-on-one relationship. Even teens who feel very close to their parents sometimes need to talk with friends outside the family. The mentor is an adult friend with whom your child can talk about things that concern him.

If at any time you are uncomfortable with the planned activities, please let either the mentor or Program Coordinator know. Mentors and the Coordinator will be sensitive to parent concerns and will try to work with you.

**How can I be sure that the mentor will support my rules and regulations?**
Talk with the mentor about rules or regulations that you expect to arise in his relationship with your child. If you have strict rules about bedtimes, places the youth may not go or foods he may not eat, please discuss these with the mentor. By making this information known at the beginning, you can help avoid misunderstandings later.
What if the mentor says things with which I do not agree?
No matter how carefully we match mentors and mentees, you may find some areas where your beliefs or ideas differ from your mentor’s. If these are important to you, let the mentor know. You can request that the mentor not question your most important beliefs or values when with your child.

Who will pay for the activities for the mentor and youth?
The program will pay for the activities. The youth should not expect the mentor to buy things for him. As with any friend, gifts should be appreciated when and if they are given, not expected on a regular basis.

If my child has misbehaved, should I allow him to see the mentor?
The mentor’s weekly visit should not be used to discipline your child. Time with the mentor is a pleasure, but it is also a time of learning and growth. Punishing your child by denying time with the mentor puts you in opposition to the mentor instead of emphasizing your mutual concern to build your child’s competence. Even if your child is grounded, the mentor should be allowed to see him.

How often should I be in contact with the mentor, and how much should I say about family problems/concerns?
Get to know the mentor well enough to feel comfortable with him being with your child. Before the monthly outings, discuss plans and time for returning home. Try talking directly with the mentor and your child in front of your child. If there is something the mentor should know, call when your child is not around.

What if there are concerns or questions I don’t want to discuss with the mentor?
Please feel free to call the Project Director. The Project Director is here to help make the program work for mentees, mentors, and parents. He will call you several times during the year to see how things are going. But don’t wait for him to call; we want to know about anything that concerns you.

PARENTS: Please provide medical history, such as: medication and/or dietary information of child/children to avoid ALL POSSIBLE HEALTH RISK.