About Mentoring for Youth & Parents/Guardians

What is Mentoring at The Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield?
Mission to Mentor is provided by the Clubs for free in addition to regular Club programs. It is an opportunity for members to develop intentional relationships with peers, staff, or volunteers in order to build their personal skills and strengths, or to provide added support when needed for challenges members may be facing. Members who participate grow through positive social skill development and opportunities to build connections with others at the Club.

Who all are involved as mentors?
Mentors at the Club are available through a variety of ways. Select staff serve as group mentors, working with small groups of youth on specific programs to build their strengths and skills, all why providing mentoring elements in their time together in an area. Older peer mentors also serve younger members in both groups and 1:1, helping to lead or share activities such as tutoring, sports, reading, games and more. Lastly, the Clubs provide adult mentors from the community who volunteer to spend time with members each week, getting to know them 1:1 or in group settings and developing connections to encourage members to be their best self. The type of mentor you are matched with depends on availability, needs and what you request. Some youth benefit from just a staff mentor, while some members appreciate the support of several different mentors.

What are the expectations and requirements?
Members who wish to participate in mentoring must commit to the following:
- Follow all Club rules and expectations
- Participate in Positive Action and one other Club program throughout the year (typically Passport to Manhood, SMART Girls, SMART Moves, etc.)
- Remain involved in the mentoring program for at least one school year
- Make every effort to connect with your mentor(s) on a weekly basis and notify the Club if you will be absent or unable to fulfill the commitment you made
- Complete required forms and attend Orientation

What do I need to do to participate?
Complete the Parent/Guardian Consent Form, Needs and Interests Referral Form (if applicable), and Youth Mentee Application. Return those completed documents to your Unit. Your information will be filed and reviewed and you will be contacted about next steps and availability for starting the program.

What if I have questions about the program?
Reach out to your Unit Program Director, Unit Director, or the Club Mentoring Coordinator (417.862.9249) if you have questions about this program. We will be happy to answer them and talk with you to discover if mentoring is right for you!