What is a mentor? What is a mentee?

A high school mentee is a young person who is willing to benefit from the life experiences and knowledge of a successful adult (mentor), in order to accomplish mutually agreed upon goals, achieve familiarity with the world of work, and learn how to access a wealth of educational, social, and vocational opportunities available.

A mentor is a caring adult who offers friendship, encouragement, reinforcement, advisement, and support in the lives of young people (mentees). By recognizing the potential within youths, volunteer mentors can help them achieve and live full, productive lives. The New York City Mentoring Program administers a screening and application process for the mentors, which includes a mandatory three-hour initial training session and the submission of personal and professional references. The New York City Department of Education also requires state and federal fingerprinting of all individuals who work directly with students in our schools.

How does mentoring work?

Mentoring sessions usually take place at your mentor’s job after school or at the school on weekends, depending on your program’s structure. You may also create a plan to meet or attend other events with your mentor elsewhere with your parent’s/guardian’s permission.

Mentoring relationships involve mutual learning experiences for both mentor and mentee. As a mentee, you bring to the relationship a broad range of knowledge, history, culture, achievements, and growth that makes mentoring a very satisfying experience for all involved. You also need to bring your own ideas and plans for how your mentor can be of help to you.

When and how often are the mentoring sessions?

After school or on weekends once a week or once every other week depending on your program’s guidelines. You are committing to meeting with your mentor for a minimum of 4 hours per month. The length of the relationship depends upon the mentor and mentee. However, as a mentee, you have committed yourself to be in the program for at least one school year. Your level of dedication to the program will ultimately determine the length of your mentoring relationship.

What should I do if there are problems within my mentor/mentee relationship?

If possible, you should try to discuss the problem(s) with your mentor and try to reach some agreement about the different solutions available. If this fails, speak with your school mentoring program coordinator. Either the mentor or the mentee can request a new partner, but only after everyone has tried to make the relationship work.

What are my responsibilities as a mentee?

- Meet your mentor at least four hours per month.
- Stay enrolled in school.
- Attend a mentee orientation session.
- Attend the required Weekly or Bi-Weekly Mentee Group Meetings (WMGMs) with your school mentoring program coordinator.
- Attend mentoring group activities, field trips, and special events.
- Be on time for all mentoring sessions, meetings, events, and activities.
- Notify mentor when you are going to be late or cannot keep an appointment.
- Tell your school mentoring program coordinator when and where you are going for all sessions with your mentor.

Mentoring makes a difference in the lives of young people! If you have further questions or issues that have not been addressed by this document, please contact your school mentoring program coordinator for assistance.

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