

BENEFITS OF MENTOR PROGRAMS

Youths already participating in mentoring programs around the country are benefiting from the structure, direction and consistency of those programs. Some encouraging statistics reported by the Big Brothers Big Sisters, Stepping Stones Mentoring Program and Communities in Schools for their participants are:

- 38% less likely to engage in violence
- 46% less likely than peers to engage in illegal drug use
- 27% less likely to initiate alcohol use
- 30% decrease in alcohol/substance use for those already engaged in this type abuse
- 40-52% decline in unexcused school absences
- 78% improved overall school attendance
- 80% improved academic performance
- 85% increase in mentee's confidence in school
- 65% improved relations with families
- 55% improved peer relations
- 37% decrease in lying to parents
- 83% of mentee parents confirm observable improvement in child's self esteem, attitude and relationships

And even though Fox Creek High School enjoys an excellent rating on our report card, has successfully met the Adequate Yearly Progress, and gang activity is almost nonexistent, we still have our share of teens who struggle and who deserve every chance we can give them for a positive, productive future. We are therefore seeking "a few good men (or women)" to serve as mentors and role models for these teens.

What's in it for the mentor? An opportunity to share knowledge, experiences and values

- Giving back to the community
- A better understanding of today's youth (including your own children)
- Explore different cultures and engage in new activities
- Enjoy continuing education and full support from program staff
- Enjoyable outings and group activities

What do you have to do? Complete application process, clear background check

- Attend orientation and training sessions
- Meet at least one hour per week with your mentee
- Maintain communications with program staff and mentee parents
- Offer your friendship, not a "quick fix"
- Change a life just by being yourself
- Assist with program evaluation

What's in it for an employer*? 75% of employees who serve as volunteer mentors demonstrate improved attitude at work

- Increased productivity, improved community relations and public image
- Increase in recruitment/retention of employees
- Improved employee teamwork and enhanced skills in coaching, communication and teamwork