

Railroad Street Youth Project Mentoring Program

The Railroad Street Youth Project (RSYP) Mentoring Program helps to empower youth in our community to make positive life choices that enable them to maximize their potential. The mentoring program asks adult volunteers to commit to supporting, guiding, and being a friend to a young person for a period of at least six months. By becoming part of the social network of adults and community members who care about the youth, the mentor helps youth develop and reach positive academic, career, and personal goals.

Mentor Role

- ♦ Take the lead in supporting a young person through an ongoing, one-to-one relationship
- ♦ Serve as a positive role model and friend
- ♦ Build the relationship by planning and participating in activities together
- ♦ Strive for mutual respect
- ♦ Build self-esteem and motivation
- ♦ Help set goals and work toward accomplishing them

Time Commitment

- ♦ Make a six month commitment
- ♦ Spend a minimum of four hours per month one-to-one with a mentee
- ♦ Communicate with the mentee weekly
- ♦ Attend an initial two-hour training session
- ♦ Attend optional mentor/mentee group events, mentor support groups, and program recognition events

Participation Requirements

- ♦ Be at least 25 years old
- ♦ Reside in Berkshire County
- ♦ Be interested in working with young people
- ♦ Be willing to adhere to all program policies and procedures
- ♦ Be willing to complete the application and screening process
- ♦ Be dependable and consistent in meeting the time commitments
- ♦ Attend mentor training sessions as prescribed
- ♦ Be willing to communicate regularly with program staff, submit activity information, and take constructive feedback regarding mentoring activities
- ♦ Have access to an automobile, auto insurance, and a good driving record
- ♦ Have a clean criminal history
- ♦ No use of illicit drugs
- ♦ No use of alcohol or controlled substances in an inappropriate manner
- ♦ Not currently in treatment for substance abuse and have a non-addictive period of at least five years
- ♦ Not currently in treatment for a mental disorder or hospitalized for such in the past three years

Desirable Qualities

- ♦ Willing listener
- ♦ Encouraging and supportive
- ♦ Patient and flexible
- ♦ Tolerant and respectful of individual differences

Benefits

- ♦ Personal fulfillment through contribution to the community and individuals
- ♦ Satisfaction in helping someone mature, progress and achieve goals
- ♦ Training sessions and group activities
- ♦ Participation in a mentor support group
- ♦ Mileage and expenses are tax deductible
- ♦ Personal ongoing support to help the match succeed
- ♦ Mentee/mentor group activities, complimentary tickets to community events, participant recognition events

Application and Screening Process

- ♦ Written application
- ♦ Driving record check
- ♦ Criminal history check: state, child abuse and neglect registry, sexual offender registry
- ♦ Personal interview
- ♦ Provide two personal references
- ♦ Attend two-hour mentor training

For more information, contact RSYF at (413)528-2475 or Jeanette@rsyp.org

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

2. Educational Background (mark one):

Some high school

Graduate/professional school

High school graduate

Technical school

Some college

College graduate

Other (please specify) _____

3. Do you speak a foreign language? **Y / N** If yes, please specify: _____

4. Please list any hobbies or interests you may have:

5. What clubs or groups, if any, do you belong?

6. My favorite subject in school was _____

7. My least favorite subject in school was _____

8. Please put an X by the activities you enjoy the most:

Writing

Attending plays

Arts and/or crafts

Health/fitness

Going to the movies

Reading

Visiting museums

Visiting parks

Photography

Using computers

Playing games

Exploring possible careers

Cooking

Hiking and seeing nature

Listening to music such as _____

Watching sports such as _____

Playing sports such as _____

9. What individual has served as a role model for you? Why?

Match Information

1. Why do you want to become a mentor?

2. What days of the week are you available to volunteer? (Check all that apply):

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

3. What is the best time for you to volunteer? (Check all that apply):

Mornings Afternoons Evenings Weekends

4. What qualities would you like in a mentee?

5. If you could recommend one book or movie for your mentee to read or see, what would it be?

Within the past 10 years, have you been convicted of any felony or misdemeanor classified as an offense against a person or family, or an offense of public indecency or a violation involving a state/federally controlled substance? ___ **YES** ___ **NO**

If the answer is YES to the above question, please explain below.

Initial the two statements below:

___ I understand the mentor program involves spending a minimum of one hour every week for a minimum of six months

___ I understand that I will be required to complete the mentor program orientation.

Please list two references:

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State/ZIP_____

Phone number_____

Relationship_____

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State/ZIP_____

Phone number_____

Relationship_____

Please read this carefully before signing:

RSYP appreciates your interest in becoming a mentor.

Please initial each of the following:

_____ I agree to follow all mentoring program guidelines and understand that any violation will result in suspension and/or termination of the mentoring relationship.

_____ I understand that RSYP is not obligated to provide a reason for their decision in accepting or rejecting me as a mentor.

_____ (optional) I agree to allow RSYP to use any photographic image of me taken while participating in the mentoring program. These images may be used in promotions or other related marketing materials.

I understand I must return all of the following *completed* items along with this application being process:

- ♦ Copy of your valid driver's license and proof of auto insurance
- ♦ Information Release Form
- ♦ Personal References Form
- ♦ Interest Survey Form
- ♦ DMV Release Form (state agency form)
- ♦ Criminal History Release Form (state agency form)
- ♦ Child Abuse and Neglect Release Form (state agency)
- ♦ Sexual Offender Release Form (state agency form)

By signing below, I attest to the truthfulness of all information listed on this application and agree to all the above terms and conditions.

Signature

Date

Railroad Street Youth Project

60 Bridge Street, P.O. Box 698

413.528.2475

Mentor Contract

Name _____

Date _____

By choosing to participate in Railroad Street Youth Project's Mentoring Program, I agree to:

- ♦ Follow all rules and guidelines as outlined by the program coordinator, mentor training, program policies, and this contract
- ♦ Be flexible and provide the necessary support and advice to help my mentee succeed
- ♦ Make a six month commitment to being matched with my mentee
- ♦ Meet at least four hours per month with my mentee
- ♦ Make at least weekly contact with my mentee
- ♦ Obtain parent/guardian permission for all meeting times at least three days in advance, if possible
- ♦ Be on time for scheduled meeting or call my mentee at least 24 hours beforehand if I am unable to make a meeting
- ♦ Regularly and openly communicate with the program coordinator as requested
- ♦ Inform the program coordinator of any difficulties or areas of concern that may arise in the relationship
- ♦ Keep any information that my mentee tells me confidential except as may cause him/her or others harm
- ♦ Always obey traffic laws when in the presence of my mentee and keep a copy of his/her health insurance coverage in the automobile at all times when traveling together
- ♦ Never be in the presence of my mentee when I have or am consuming alcohol, tobacco or controlled substances
- ♦ Participate in a closure process when that time comes
- ♦ Notify the program coordinator if I have any changes in address, phone number or employment status

_____ (please initial) I understand that upon match closure, future contact with my mentee is beyond the scope of RSYP and may happen only by the mutual consensus of the mentor, the mentee, and parent/guardian.

I agree to follow all the above stipulations of this program as well as any other conditions as instructed by the program coordinator at this time or in the future.

Signature

Date