

Mentor Role Description

The Funhouse Mentoring Program pairs caring adults with young people on Orcas Island. Mentoring relationships are proven to be a factor in improving and strengthening the personal and academic success of youth. Mentor volunteers commit to being a supportive presence in a young person's life, through weekly meet-ups, for a period of at least one year. By becoming part of the social network of adults who care about the youth, the mentor can support their mentee to build self-confidence and resilience.

Mentor Role

- Take the lead in supporting a young person through an ongoing, one-on-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

Time Commitment

- Make a one-year 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 and additional ongoing education events twice during each year of participation in the program
- Attend optional mentor/mentee group events, mentor support groups, and program recognition events

Participation Requirements

- Be at least 16 years old
- 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
- If you have access to an automobile, possess auto insurance, and a good driving record
- Have a clean criminal history
- Not use illicit drugs
- Not use alcohol or controlled substances in an inappropriate manner
- Not be currently in treatment for substance abuse and have a non-addictive period of at least five years

Personal Qualities

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

Benefits

- Personal fulfillment through contribution to community and individual
- Satisfaction in helping someone mature, progress, and achieve goals
- Training sessions and group activities
- Mileage and expenses are tax deductible
- Personal ongoing support, supervision to help the match succeed
- Mentee/mentor group activities

Application and Screening Process

- Written application
- Copy of driver's license and proof of automobile insurance
- Criminal history check: state, child abuse and neglect registry, sexual offender registry
- Personal interview
- Provide two personal references
- Attend two-hour initial mentor training