

Youth Mentor Position Description

Sammy D Foundation

PURPOSE

To give a young person (Mentee) (male or female between the ages of 7 and 17) in need of social, recreational, developmental, and emotional support, the companionship of a caring adult and positive role model.

MENTOR DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

The Mentor will be assigned to a Mentee and will be responsible for meeting with the mentee on a weekly or fortnightly basis, for 3 hours per week. A 12 month commitment is the minimum accepted and the maximum commitment will be 2 years.

The Mentor will be asked to work on certain aspects of the young person's development as outlined in goals set by social workers. She or he will work closely with the Department for Child Protection (DCP) and Sammy D Foundation (SDF) staff through phone contact, personal supervision, and group supervision and/or professional development sessions. The aim of mentoring sessions is to build rapport with the Mentee and to facilitate activities to aid in the development of pro social behavior or life skill building.

The Mentor will serve as a positive role model to demonstrate that adults can give, and should also receive, respect. Self-realization and improved self-esteem for the Mentee are also important goals of the relationship. It should be emphasized that the Mentor in no way replaces the carer/guardian or the young person's social worker or other support workers. Rather, he or she provides interested, compassionate support.

REQUIREMENTS/QUALIFICATIONS

All Mentors must have completed the seven-hour Child Safe Environment training or Responding to Abuse & Neglect training, hold a current DHS Working with Children's Check and a First Aid certificate and complete online SMART Training or, be willing to complete these within a specified timeframe. The mentoring relationship cannot commence until all these tasks have been completed.

Mentors will also need a current driver's licence, have access to a roadworthy vehicle, and be willing to use it to transport young people. SDF will arrange for your car to be inspected by a mechanic to ensure it is roadworthy and safe for transporting clients. Alternatively, we have an office vehicle that can be booked for mentoring visits upon approval.

Experience and/or studying in teaching, human services or related fields is desirable. Previous experience working with young people or in the youth work field would also be helpful however, not compulsory.

The Mentor should have the ability to accept and relate to young people who may not share the same lifestyle and values. This is extremely important and will aid the Mentor in remaining transparent and nonjudgmental.

The Mentor should respect the Mentee's right to self-determination and independence. This respect is an essential element in the relationship. The Mentor should exhibit a great deal of common sense, intelligence, friendliness, maturity, sensitivity, and responsibility.

TIME COMMITMENT

Mentors should allocate up to 3 hours per week for face-to-face contact with their Mentees. They should also allow for travel time and approximately 15 minutes of admin work after the completion of each session.

While each mentoring relationship is different, the time spent with the Mentee must remain consistent.

Mentors will likely continue to work for longer than the minimum 12 month period however, this will be negotiated by the School Retention team and young person's social worker. Where possible we will strive for continuity as this is essential to building a trusting relationship.

LOCATION

Young people throughout the community need the companionship of a Mentor. SDF seeks to match Mentors as close to their own homes as possible to minimise travel. During interviewing and the matching process, Mentors will have the opportunity to state any preferences and SDF will attempt to meet these preferences as close as possible.

Before making any match, program staff will consider location, interests, skills, background, knowledge, and temperament of both the Mentee and the Mentor.

SUPERVISION

Supervision is provided on a regular basis for the Mentor's personal growth and development, either 1:1 or in a group setting.

BENEFITS OF MENTORING

Mentors can assume that their skills in working with young people will increase and they will gain valuable experience, and personal satisfaction.

Mentors receive ongoing support and recognition. A staff person will be assigned to work with them, and they will receive further professional training opportunities.

On completion of the mentoring relationship, the Mentor may request a written performance appraisal from the Program Coordinator or request a reference for future work.

HOW TO APPLY

Please email a covering letter as well as your CV with at least two relevant referees to jessie@sammyd.org.au

Contact Person:

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