



Mentor Volunteer Description

The United Way of Pueblo County Middle School Mentoring Program helps to enrich the lives of Pueblo middle school students by providing opportunities to build relationships with caring adults who empower and encourage them through one-to-one mentoring. The mentoring program recruits adult volunteers to commit to supporting, guiding, and being a friend to a young person for a period of at least one year. By becoming part of the social network of adults and community members who care about the youth, mentors can help 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

- Agree to a commitment of a minimum of one school year and a maximum of three until student completes middle school
- Attend Meet and Greet where mentors are officially introduced to their mentees and parents/guardians
- Spend a minimum of four hours per month one-to-one with a mentee, either in person at the school
 - *Remote mentoring is available on a case-by-case basis
- Communicate with the mentee weekly
- Attend an initial two-hour New Mentor Orientation and one additional training session during the first year of participation in the program and two mentor training sessions annually thereafter
- Attend optional mentor/mentee group events, mentor support groups, and program recognition events

Participation Requirements

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY PRIOR TO COMPLETING MENTOR APPLICATION

- At least 21 years old
- Interested in working with young people
- Adhere to all program policies and procedures
- Complete the application, screening process, background check, and fingerprinting
- Dependable and consistent in meeting the time commitments
- Attend mentor training sessions as prescribed
- Communicate regularly with program staff, submit activity information, and take constructive feedback regarding mentoring activities
- Clean criminal history; able to pass background check with no previous convictions of child abuse or neglect
- No use of illegal drugs in the past five years
- No use of alcohol or controlled substances in an abusive manner in the past five years
- No treatment for alcohol or substance abuse (not including Alcoholics/Narcotics Anonymous) in the past five years and have a non-addictive period of at least five years

Desirable Qualities

- Active listener
- Positive, encouraging, and supportive
- Patient and flexible
- Tolerant and respectful of individual differences
- Willingness to learn and grow
- Comfortable with technology

Benefits and Support

- Personal fulfillment through contribution to the community and individuals
- Satisfaction in helping someone mature, progress, and achieve goals
- Training sessions and ongoing education on relevant mentoring topics
- Personal ongoing support and supervision from UWPC staff and school staff to help the match succeed
- Mentee/mentor group activities, participant recognition events

Application and Screening Process

- Written application
- Initial interview with UWPC staff
- Second interview with UWPC staff and school staff
- Background check/fingerprinting: motor vehicle, federal and state criminal records; child abuse and neglect registry; sexual offender registry
- Personal references check
- Two-hour New Mentor Orientation

For more information, contact the United Way of Pueblo County Middle School Mentoring Program at 719-225-8580, option 1 or youth@pueblounitedway.org.