

**RSVP’s Virtual Youth Mentoring Program Summary**

**Goals for Youth Participants**: Support and enhance individual, personal development including self-esteem, building relationships, goal-setting, researching future opportunities

**Target Grades: 3rd – 6Th grade when they begin**

**Key Partners**: Parents/Guardians, community programs, schools

**Mentor Requirements:**

* The first step for mentors is to obtain clearances. Those required include the PA criminal background; a PA DHS child abuse clearance; FBI fingerprinting and a check of the National Sex Offender Registry database; also required is an online Act 126 mandated reporter training and three references including one family member and two personal

**Program Outline**:

Mentors and mentees will meet online 2-4 times per month (only 2x/month required) on a regular schedule for 9 months. These virtual meetings will be scheduled via Zoom and after school because of the uncertainty of school schedules at this time. The match may be extended for a longer period if all parties are agreeable.

Pre-Match: Thorough volunteer screening, orientation and training for mentors; Interview with parent/guardians and/or referring partners to identify youths’ needs

**Below are the central topics/focus of the bimonthly sessions:**

1. Pre-Match background work: Clearances, Orientation, Training
2. First Match Meeting (Getting to know each-other, review of program, complete Goals Worksheet)
3. Explore developmental assets and mentee’s ‘Sparks’
4. Discuss behavioral issues through trauma-informed lens (focus on helping youth cope with anxiety and anger)
5. Explore cultural diversity through holiday traditions and celebrations
6. Discuss growth mindset and develop Strategy Box to achieve goals
7. Work on SMART goal setting, review progress towards goals

**Virtual Youth Mentoring Program Summary (continued)**

1. Build resiliency skills to handle difficult situations
2. Discuss progress/completion of goals and future plans
3. Celebration of achievements and match closure or planning for continuation

* Discussion topics will be enhanced through the use of the Epic! Education platform which includes books, audiobooks, and videos as well as other evidence-based resources available from organizations such as the National Mentoring Partnership (mentor.org), Search Institute (searchinstitute.org) and “Stepitup2Thrive” (http://stepitup2thrive.org/)
* Mentors will have detailed training on the Epic! Platform (getepic.com) and scheduling/meeting reminders will be sent to mentors and parent/guardians through the vcita for Education (vcita.com) platform. The Program Coordinator will facilitate the first match meeting. After that, the Program Coordinator will connect 1:1 with each mentor and parent at least once a month to get updates and provide training and resources.
* In months 4 and 8, the Program Coordinator will invite mentors to a voluntary “Chat & Chew” group session with other mentors to share challenges, successes and facilitate peer-learning opportunities. If areas of common interests emerge, the Program Coordinator will facilitate group enrichment activities.

**Program Outcomes:**

Pre and post surveys will be required from mentees, mentors, parent/guardians to include a review of mentees’ progress on individual, self-directed goals, examples of personal development, and personal testimonials.