

## Youth Sponsor

Youth Sponsors are the heart of the Youth Sponsorship Program (YSP). They are student leaders, tour guides, programmers, briefers, and representatives of the program. The program cannot exist without Youth Sponsors.

<b>Qualities</b>	<p>A Youth Sponsor is someone who wants to make a difference in their community, is open to new people and new ideas, and is willing to take on a leadership role. Other qualities of a Youth Sponsor include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Respectful of individual differences</li><li>• Willing to listen</li><li>• Patient and flexible</li><li>• Willing to learn</li><li>• Able to communicate</li><li>• Problem solver</li><li>• Positive attitude</li><li>• Encouraging and supportive</li></ul>
<b>Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be a member of the school or center where participating</li><li>• Complete the Youth Sponsor Application process</li><li>• Be in good standing at school and in the community</li><li>• Have passing grades</li><li>• Attend training</li><li>• Adhere to policies and procedures</li></ul>
<b>Time Commitment</b>	<p>Youth Sponsors must commit to 1 year of service in the program.</p> <p>Time commitments are dependent on individual programs; however, Youth Sponsors should plan on giving at least 1 hour per week to the program. There may be events that will require more time.</p>
<b>Benefits</b>	<p>When deciding to join a student led organization, you should consider how the organization will benefit you as well as your community.</p>
<b>Benefits to the Youth Sponsor</b>	<p>As a Youth Sponsor you will gain new skills in communication, interpersonal relationships and leadership. Other benefits include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Satisfaction in knowing that you helped someone else</li><li>• Increased knowledge about your community</li><li>• Increased understanding about military transition</li><li>• Learning new coping and resilience strategies</li><li>• Opportunities to participate in training and programs with other youth across the community</li><li>• Advisors can provide references for work and school</li><li>• Build leadership experience for college and scholarship applications</li><li>• Acquire service learning hours</li></ul>

## **Benefits to the Community**

Youth Sponsors help to build a better community by creating a welcoming environment for those who are new. YSP is committed to helping individuals who are moving find information, find opportunities to make new friends, and gain a sense of belonging. This, in turn, creates less stress on Families and creates a community that people want to be a part of. Other benefits include:

- Enhances programs available to youth
- Improves how schools and centers welcome new youth
- Informs youth of opportunities to connect to their communities
- Allows youth to learn the rules and expectations before they break them
- Creates a team environment
- Supports positive communication
- Builds positive identity
- Empowers youth to be a part of their community

## **Training**

Youth Sponsors will participate in training as part of their role. The annual training will provide Youth Sponsors with the skills necessary to be successful in the program.

Additional training will be conducted throughout the year. This training is designed to help develop communication, resilience, and leadership skills.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Taking the Lead**

The YSP is a youth led program. This means that the Youth Sponsor is responsible for planning, coordinating, and executing activities and events. There will always be an adult Advisor assigned to advise, coach, mentor and lead.

Youth Sponsors will take a lead welcoming new youth in their community. This includes encouraging participation in YSP and providing them with information about their new community.

### **Participate in Activities**

The amount of activities and events the YSP offers is dependent on the youth in the program. At a minimum you will participate in:

- Conducting orientations and tours
- Providing information about the community
- Hosting Hail and Farewell events
- Communicating with incoming youth
- Planning service learning projects
- Planning meetings
- Conducting arrival and departure activities
- Participating in leadership training and activities

<p><b>Youth Sponsorship</b></p>	<p>Youth Sponsors will be paired with youth that are in transition. It is their job to welcome them into the community and help them learn about their new home. Once assigned as a Youth Sponsor, the role can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contacting your Sponsee to introduce yourself</li> <li>• Providing Sponsee with information about the community before they arrive</li> <li>• Arranging to meet them after they arrive</li> <li>• Conducting orientations and tours</li> <li>• Introducing them to activities and groups that match their interests</li> <li>• Eating lunch with them</li> <li>• Listening</li> </ul>
<p><b>Be Available</b></p>	<p>As a Youth Sponsor you should be available to your Sponsees as well as to your Advisor. Expect to spend more time with your Sponsee in the first couple of days as they get used to their new community.</p>
<p><b>Encourage Participation</b></p>	<p>Encourage your Sponsees to attend events that are being hosted by the school and the center for newcomers. This will help them to meet other youth and begin to get involved in the community. Let them know what's going on and offer to attend an event or two with them.</p>
<p><b>Recruiting</b></p>	<p>The only way to keep the program going is to have a continuous pool of Youth Sponsors. Work with Advisors to come up with recruiting events throughout the year.</p>
<p><b>Marketing</b></p>	<p>Youth Sponsors work with Advisors to develop posters, flyers, and other marketing tools to encourage youth to get involved.</p>
<p><b>Record Hours</b></p>	<p>Youth Sponsors can earn service learning or volunteer hours. To do so, you need to be properly registered as a volunteer and record your hours. Your Advisor will help you get registered and show you how to log your hours.</p>

I have read and understand the roles and responsibilities of a Youth Sponsor

YSP Advisor Signature

Youth Sponsor Signature

Parent Signature