

Wayne County 4-H Mentoring Corps

Program Overview

Utilizing the 4-H program model of volunteers working with youth in ongoing relationships, the Wayne County Department of Children and Family Services and Michigan State University Extension has established a youth mentoring program designed to serve approximately 100 currently underserved, at-risk youth in the Greater Detroit Area. The target audience of the Wayne County 4-H Mentoring Corps program is Wayne County youth ages 10 – 17. This program will enlist a minimum of 25 adults to be 1-to-1 mentors with these youth.

The Wayne County 4-H Mentoring Corps program emphasizes helping young people improve their academic performance, improve relationships with peers and adults, reduce school delinquency rates, and develop skills that will prepare them for successful futures in the work force. This program addresses three primary outcomes.

1. Reducing the drop-out rate of targeted youth participants
2. Reducing the delinquency rate of targeted youth participants
3. Improving the academic performance of targeted youth participants

Our goal is to also connect program participants with community resources and activities, including employment and training assistance, involvement in vocational training, outdoor education explorations, academic enrichment and tutoring, career fairs, volunteerism and quarterly workshops on a variety of youth development subjects (including substance abuse, improving family and peer relationships, conflict resolution, etc.).

This program is designed to take place through community-based mentoring activities during out-of-school time, on weekends and during school vacations. Summer activities planned by MSUE staff will be offered to matches also. These include day and overnight camping experiences, recreation and other group experiences and educational programs for mentees and mentors.

Volunteers interested in being mentors for this program are asked to make a minimum one-year commitment to the mentoring relationship. During the year, young people and their mentors will be expected to meet for a minimum of 2 hours, twice per week. Prior to matching, potential mentors will need to complete orientation and training. Training will be provided in three, three-hour, required workshops. These workshops will cover topics such as:

! Orientation to the Wayne County 4-H Mentoring Corps Program

- ! Program policies and procedures
- ! Roles and Responsibilities of Mentors
- ! Ages and Stages of Child Development
- ! Setting Boundaries in Your Mentoring Relationship
- ! Effective Communication Skills
- ! Understanding Community Resources
- ! Understanding Youth Culture
- ! Strategies for Dealing with Behavioral Challenges
- ! Tutoring Skills
- ! Parent Roles in a Mentoring Relationship
- ! Adulthood

Individuals selected to be Wayne County 4-H Mentoring Corps mentors will receive the following benefits:

- Training provided by Michigan State University Extension to assist you in building the skills needed to be an effective mentor;
- Reimbursement for travel related to carrying out your mentoring responsibilities at a rate of \$.50/ mile. The total amount of travel reimbursement available is \$1,200 annually.
- On-going support from Wayne County MSU Extension staff assigned to this program.
- Total amount to be awarded will be \$10.35 an hour or comparable incentives. In order to receive this fee, you must fulfill all responsibilities each quarter.

To be considered for this program, individuals will need to complete the MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process. This process consists of an application, Child Protective Services Clearance, reference checks (3), criminal background check and an interview. There is no cost to potential volunteers for completing this process.

For more information please contact

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