

GYLGF Girls Mentor Program

Parent/Guardian Information

Overview

The Girls Mentor Program matches Secondary school girls with females in business and professions. In one-to-one relationships for an academic year. Through these relationships, as well as recreational and group activities, our matches share friendship, support, and fun. Mentors and mentees get together at least once a month. Both mentors and mentees make a commitment to spend time together throughout the academic year. They can participate in activities that they both enjoy. The mentors are not private tutors, although sometimes pairs decide to work on homework together. We plan social group activities on a quarterly basis that are open to all participants. We are also available at all times to answer questions, offer support and help matches work through challenges that may arise.

The Steering Committee

The GMP Steering Committee is a group of volunteers who lead the Girls Mentor Program. They recruit mentors and mentees, plan all training orientations and group activities, and provide support and information if problems arise. You may contact the Directors and Steering Committee at 08037282718 or gylgfoundation@gmail.com We happily welcome feedback!

Recruitment of Mentors and Mentees

Mentors complete a written application, including two references. They then participate in a one-on-one interview with a Steering Committee Member, at which time they learn about the program in detail, and we get to know them and their background. After completing the interview process, the mentor must attend a training session. Mentees also complete a written application, which includes a parent/guardian consent form. We ask that parents attend an orientation held during the beginning of the academic session to receive more information about the program and our guidelines.

Matching

The Steering Committee matches mentors and mentees based on shared interests, personality, and, if it is important to the mentee, cultural background. Unfortunately, we are not always able to match everyone who applies. This happens for many reasons, but the most common are that we simply do not have equal numbers of mentors and mentees. If a student is not matched, please understand that it is not because he/she is "unsuitable" for the program. They will be placed on our waiting list, and as soon as an opportunity arises for them to be involved, we will contact them. If a student is matched, their mentor will contact them by phone to let them know, and will host a special activity at the GYLGF where they will be introduced to their mentor.

After Students Are Matched

After students are matched, they will meet with their mentor at least once a month for 2-3 hours. They can meet at school, at home or the GYLGf. Parent consent must be given for all activities matches participate in. As the mentors are volunteers, it is important that the mentee and the mentor are both respectful of the other's time.

Group Activities

We host social activities about once a month. These activities give us a chance to get together and have fun! Past activities have included A's Games, field Trips, Parties and activities at the GYLGf, Movies, B-B-Q's, and more. Along with program-wide activities, our Steering Committee members coordinate other events throughout the session for smaller groups of pairs. This is to encourage a sense of community within in our program and creates a chance for our participants to get to know each other better. We really want to hear from mentees about what they would like to do.

Girls Mentor Program (GMP)

Mentee Application

Please write clearly and answer every question.

Date: _____ Did you have a mentor before through our program? Yes or No

If yes, would you like the same mentor this time? Yes or No

Did you apply before and not receive a mentor? Yes or No

Name: _____

Circle: Boy or Girl Age: _____ Birthday: _____ Ethnicity: _____

Class: _____ School: _____

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Child's Mobile/Pager Phone Number(s): _____

Parent's Mobile/Pager Phone Number(s): _____

Child's Email Address: _____

Parent's Email Address: _____

Do you prefer to receive news from Girls Mentor Program regarding upcoming events and other important information via email, in the mail, or both?

How did you hear about Girls Mentor Program? (Circle One)

Friend Teacher After School Program Table at lunch

Why do you want a mentor? (For tutoring, advice, friendship, "big brother/big sister," for academic purpose, or as someone to just hang out with?)

What kind of person would you like your mentor to be? (A good listener, active in sports, etc.)

What are three words that would best describe you? _____

Please describe three things that you are good at: _____

Is there anything that you would change about yourself?

What clubs, activities, or sports are you in now? How much of your time do these activities take up? _____

What kind of activities would you like to do with the Girls Mentor Program?

Is there anything else that you would like to describe about yourself that may help us find the best mentor for you? _____

We will do our best to match you with a mentor who has similar interests and who we think will be a good role model for the upcoming year. You should meet with your mentor for 2-3 hours a fortnightly and try to attend the group activities each month at the GYLGf Your mentor will let you know the times and dates of these fun events. In order to gain the most from the program, you need to make an effort just like the mentor. Please answer the following questions:

1. Will you try your best to meet with your mentor once in 2 weeks? Circle: Yes or No
2. Will you try your best to attend every monthly group event? Circle: Yes or No

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Time Schedule

Please use a pen or marker and color in the spaces that you are busy. Leave the spaces open when you are free. This way we can match you with a mentor with the same schedule. Have a parent or guardian help you with this part.

Example: I have school until 3:00 pm every day. I also have basketball practice Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00-5:00 pm. I have piano lessons on Saturday at 10:00-11:00 am.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10AM							
11AM							
Noon							
1PM							
2PM							
3PM							
4PM							
5PM							
6PM							

Now fill out your schedule:

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10AM							
11AM							
Noon							
1PM							
2PM							
3PM							
4PM							
5PM							
6PM							

Promoting equality
GYLGF
Girls

Plot 10, PDCOS Housing Estate
gylgfoundation@gmail.com

Girls Mentor Program

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT AND LIABILITY RELEASE FORM

I, _____, give my consent for the Girls Mentor Program at the to match my child, _____

_____,
with a I will also give consent for my child to participate in all Girls Mentor Program activities; including all organized activities and transportation. In consideration of the advantages of participation in the Youth Mentor Program, the undersigned agrees that the GYLGF, staff, and its employees shall be released and exempt from any liability for damages for bodily injuries or property damages that may occur as a result of participation in the Girls Mentor Program,

Signature Date

Print Name Relationship to child

Address City Zip

Home Phone Number Mobile/Pager Phone Number Work Phone Number

Email Address Language Spoken by Parent/Guardian

Emergency Contact and Phone(s)

Will you be able to help with transportation of your child to meet with the mentor? Yes or No

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being the least and 5 being the most) how involved will you be in this program?
UNINVOLVED 1 2 3 4 5 VERY INVOLVED

Please write here why you think your child would benefit from the program and list anything of interest, i.e. special needs or concerns: _____

*****PLEASE RETURN WITH MENTEE APPLICATION*****

Important Information for Becoming a Mentee

What is the purpose of the program?

The GYLGF Girls Mentor Program is designed to give your child an opportunity to have a one-on-one relationship with a an adult role model. Through these relationships, as well as recreational and group activities, mentors provide friendship, support, and guidance to your child. The mentors are there to act as a positive role model and confidant.

Can my child be tutored by his or her mentor?

The GYLGF Girls Mentor Program is not a tutoring program. While sometimes pairs decide together to work on school work, this is not a requirement for the mentors. There are many other programs that focus on tutoring if you feel that your child needs academic support. The GYLGF Girls Mentor Program focuses on fostering lasting and meaningful relationships between the mentor and mentee rather than concentrating just on academics.

What about transportation?

It is the responsibility of each mentor-mentee pair to decide on a transportation plan that will work for them. GYLGF. If the mentor does have a car and is willing to drive your child, you will need to fill out a waiver form. If the mentor does not have a car and you cannot help with the transportation of your child, we often recommend that the mentor and mentee try to meet at a location that would be a midpoint and convenient for both.

Who are the mentors and why do they want to be a part of the program?

Mentors are selected accomplished women in the civil secretly from a variety of different backgrounds. They have been interviewed, trained, had their references checked, and carefully matched with middle school students. Mentors have a variety of motivations for getting involved with the program. However, all mentors want to be a positive role model in a child's life.

When will my child meet with their mentor? What kinds of activities will they do together?

Meetings will be at a day and time convenient to you, your child, and the mentor. There is no scheduled location or activity for the meetings. Rather, mentors will call your child to set up plans for the week. Activities range from going to the library, to visiting university campus, to seeing movies. All activities are agreed upon by you, your child, and the mentor.

The only events that are pre-arranged are monthly events that we hold at the GYLGF. These events typically take place on Friday evenings or Saturday afternoons. You will be informed of these events by your child's mentor, as well as by mailings that we will send out the week prior to the event.

What should I do if my child cannot attend a meeting or event with their mentor?

Have your child call his or her mentor and reschedule the meeting to a time that is more convenient. Be sure to keep the phone numbers of the mentor handy so that you or your child can call them when needed. If you cannot reach the mentor, please call the GYLGF at 08037282718 and leave a message with the Program office.

What if family plans conflict with a meeting?

The mentor should compliment or add to family opportunities. Time with the mentor is not intended to displace time with the family. You should continue your normal family plans. The mentor and your child should plan their time together around your family's normal schedule as much as possible. It may help to let your child and their mentor know about planned family events in advance to help avoid conflicts.

Can other family members or I go with my child and the mentor?

A mentoring relationship is special in part because it is a one-on-one relationship. Even teens that feel very close to their parents sometimes need to talk with friends outside of the family. The mentor is an adult friend with whom your child can talk about things that concern him or her. Please respect their private time together. Moreover, mentors are not baby-sitters and cannot be responsible for anyone except their mentee.

The mentor and your child will inform you about their plans as scheduled. If at any time you are uncomfortable with their plans, please let us know. Mentors will be sensitive to parental concerns and will try to find an arrangement that is acceptable to you.

How can I be sure that the mentor will support my rules and regulations?

In the beginning, talk to the mentor about any rules or regulations that you expect to arise in his or her relationship with your child. If you have strict rules about curfew, activities in which your child may not participate, etc. then please discuss these with the mentor. By making this information known at the beginning, you can help avoid misunderstandings later.

What if the mentor says things with which I do not agree?

No matter how carefully we match mentors and mentees, you may find that some areas of your beliefs and ideas differ with those of the mentor's. If there are important issues to you, please let the mentor know. You can request that the mentor NOT question your most important beliefs or values when with your child.

Who will pay for activities of the mentor and my child?

Mentors and mentees always pay for their own expenses. If there is a cost for an activity, then you or your child will be responsible for the your child's fair share. Monthly events at the GYLGf are cost-free; we also provide the mentors with many low-cost or no-cost activity suggestions. As with any friend, mentors may treat your child occasionally, but it should not be expected on a regular basis.

How often should I be in contact with the mentor and how much should I say about family problems/concerns?

Get to know the mentor well enough to feel comfortable with her being with you child. Before each meeting, discuss the plans and times for returning home. Try talking directly to the mentor about your concerns, but please avoid talking to the mentor about your child in front of your child. If there is something the mentor should really know, then call them when your child is not around.

What if there are concerns or questions I don't want to discuss with the mentor?

Please feel free to contact Dr. Peju Oti or the program officer by phone at (08037282718 or email at gylgfoundation@gmail.com). They are here to make the Youth Mentor Program work for students, mentors, and parents. A Steering Committee member will call you several times during the school year to see how things are going. But don't wait for them to call! We would like to know about anything that concerns you as soon as possible.