

Youth Frontiers

MENTOR FACT SHEET

About Youth Frontiers

- A mentoring program promoting Leadership & Community engagement using both group and one-to-one mentoring
- Involves a minimum of 35hrs of weekly sessions (approx.2hrs per week) over 6 months – terms 2 & 3 wrapping up in term 4. (Generally starting 2nd week in Term 2 and finishing around 4th week in Term 4 – can vary a little from school to school)
- Between 6 to 12 students per school aged between 12 to 16 years
- Students matched with an adult volunteer mentor (a mentor can work with more than 1 student)
- Culminating in a showcase where the students will present their project with a civic leader (MP, Mayor etc.) from the community in attendance
- Structured sessions with a workbook to guide you.
- Funded by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services
- One-to-one sessions generally delivered on school campus - group sessions may occur off campus.

Goals of Youth Frontiers for young people and the community

- Foster leadership skills
- Increase confidence
- Increase community connectedness & engagement
- Introduce young people to the benefits of mentoring

Benefits of mentoring for a young person

- Proven to increase likelihood of going on to higher education
- Proven to increase relationship satisfaction w/ friends, partners & family
- Proven to increase community engagement through volunteering or leadership roles

Benefits of mentoring for the mentor

- Sense of connection with your local community
- Make a positive difference in a young person's life
- Experience working alongside young people
- Experience working within the school environment
- Ability to impart your life experience & skills on the leaders of tomorrow
- Support and training provided by Youth Frontiers Coordinator

Program focus

- Mentoring relationship
- Community project which will build on:
 - Their idea of community
 - Their roles within their communities
 - Leadership attributes & skills
 - Identifying problems
 - Research
 - Goal setting
 - Presentation skills
- Projects may focus on: the arts, environmental issues, mental health and wellbeing, social inclusion and more.

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Student participants

- A variety of students from 12 to 16 years who have the capacity to benefit from a mentoring program focussed on leadership and civic engagement.

Position Description for Volunteer Mentors

The Youth Frontiers Mentor Role is to provide mentoring and friendship to a young person aged between 12 to 16 years. Mentors commit to spending quality time with a young person during scheduled times on school premises on a regular basis for a minimum of 35 hours over 6 months. The role involves both group and one-to-one mentoring whilst supporting a young person to develop a civic project.

Responsibilities and Tasks

- To develop a mutually co-operative, supportive and fun relationship.
- To act as a positive role model and encourage new learnings and skills.
- To encourage a young person to reach their potential and support the development of a civic project.
- A commitment to see the whole process through regardless of difficulties that may arise.
- To respect a young person's dignity and right to privacy.
- To consider the safety of the young person and establish appropriate boundaries/limits for behaviour.
- To maintain regular contact with the nominated Coordinator regarding the progress of the mentee/mentor.

Qualifications

No formal qualifications are necessary.

Selection Criteria

- Have an interest and ability to relate to a young person.
- Ability to act as a positive role model.
- Genuine interest in the well-being of young people.
- Regular commitment of contact over 6 months.
- Willing and able to accept guidance from Program staff.
- Ability to work alongside a young person independently on a project.
- General knowledge and experience using computers/apps/smartphones
- Ability to accept others with different values.
- Ability and desire to work within a group mentoring team facilitated by a Youth Frontiers program representative.
- Good general health.
- Aged between 18 and 80.

Steps to becoming a mentor

1. Complete an online application form at <https://midcoastcommunities.org.au/services/youth-frontiers/>
2. Successfully complete the screening process which includes:
 - a. A phone interview with the Youth Frontiers Coordinator and referee checks
 - b. The ability to obtain a cleared Working With Children Check and Federal Police Check
 - c. Participation in training

For more information please contact:

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