

AMPED Kids Mentor Program

Mission: To provide children receiving services through AMPED Kids with an additional level of support outside of the music program that they are involved in.

Role of the Mentor (volunteer/unpaid)

The mentor will connect with the child and identified legal guardian (foster/adoptive/birth parent) to monitor progress, provide encouragement and help to resolve any identified needs related to music items and additional program support. It is very important that the mentor adhere to their respective role and to not cross any boundaries with these at-risk children and families. We do not want the mentor to interfere or inadvertently complicate other services or agencies that these children/families may be involved in such as DFCS, foster agencies, law enforcement, courts, etc...

Mentor Responsibilities

At a minimum, the mentor will communicate with the AMPED Kids participant **and** guardian once per month to discuss progress or any identified needs. Two face to face visits a month would be the maximum so as to not burden the child/family with added meetings to their busy schedules. Any more than two visits will need to be approved by the mentor coordinator.

The mentor will send notes of encouragement and things such as birthday and holiday cards.

The mentor will remind participants about upcoming events such as talent shows, song writing workshops, things that AMPED is involved in, etc...

The mentor will keep a logbook of notes documenting every type of contact, attempted contact, notes/cards sent along with a brief description of that interaction. This should include the date, time, persons present and what was discussed as well as any concerns noted.

The mentor will immediately notify their appointed AMPED Kids contact or mentor program coordinator if there are any concerns regarding the welfare or well-being of the child involved in our program. The representative will provide guidance on next steps up to and including referrals to law enforcement, DFCS and/or other involved agencies working with the child.

Mentors should never transport the child(ren) or meet with them behind closed doors. There should always be a guardian or other adult within a reasonable distance. Conversations can be private, but we want to avoid any allegations of misconduct or misunderstandings that could arise by being alone with the child(ren).

The mentor will gather feedback from the student(s) and guardian(s) on an annual basis regarding their satisfaction with the program. This information will be incorporated into our organizational annual reporting.

Mentors will be assigned no more than three students/families at a time unless approved by the mentor coordinator.

Mentor Selection

Individuals interested in serving as mentors will need to undergo a criminal background check and pass successfully with no history. Those with traffic offenses or other minor incidents can appeal to the AMPED board of directors to pursue a waiver to potentially serve.

Prospective mentors will need to provide two references that an AMPED associate will contact to verify suitability and appropriateness of potential selection.

Prospective mentors will need to complete a formal Volunteer Mentor Application . This includes demographic and personal information as to why they want to serve in this role .

Prospective mentors' completed paperwork packets will need to be reviewed and approved by a minimum of two board members in order for someone to be selected to serve as a mentor.

The president of the AMPED board of directors has final authority over approvals or rejections.

Mentor Training

All mentors will go through an official orientation done by the mentor coordinator or designee to review roles, responsibilities, provide emergency contact info, discuss documentation logs, reports and identify child assignments. In addition, mentors must complete the online Mandated Reporter training at the link below. It is a free, online course.

https://www.prosolutionstraining.com/store/product/index.cfm?tProductVersion_id=2228&uLanguage_id=1